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JANUARY 5, 2023 | FUN | ORLANDO



THE HARRY W. BASS, JR. CORE COLLECTION, PART II



Front Cover Lot: 9013

IFC Lots: 9102, 9084, 9087, 9091

IBC Lots: 9016, 9100

Back Cover Lots: 9011, 9040, 9003, 9044,
9058, 9064, 9061, 9045, 9047

THE HARRY W. BASS, JR. CORE COLLECTION, PART II

January 5, 2023 | Orlando

Orange County Convention Center N/S Building | 9400 Universal Blvd. | Orlando, FL 32819 | Room N230 B

Session

(Floor, Telephone, HERITAGELive!®, Internet, Fax, and Mail)

Thursday, January 5 • 7:00 PM ET • Lots 9001–9103

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Orange County Convention Center N/S Building | 9400 Universal Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32819 | Room N220 C & D

Monday, January 2, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM ET

Tuesday, January 3 – Thursday, January 5 | 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET

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HERITAGE AUCTIONS

Dear Bidder,

Part I of The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection was a great success leading off September's Long Beach auction, achieving more than \$20.5 million in prices realized. Heritage is proud and excited to present Part II of the Core Collection as a kickoff to our Official January 2023 FUN Signature® auction event! The Bass coins will be sold in a dedicated Signature® auction Thursday evening January 5 in Orlando at the FUN Show, featuring 103 lots that reflect Harry Bass' unprecedented focus on U.S. gold and gold-related pattern issues.

The remarkable Bass attention to varieties and die states is on full display. By far, the star of our Core Collection, Part II presentation is a classic rarity of the U.S. Gold series – the famous 1870-S three dollar gold piece – thought to be unique in the Federal series. Although a second example is possibly entombed in a casket beneath the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint, if it indeed exists it will remain there well into the foreseeable future.

Here are few more highlights from The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II to be offered at the FUN show:

- 1815 Capped Head Left half eagle, MS62 PCGS, BD-1, R.7, a classic gold rarity with only 635 pieces struck from which 12 to 14 pieces survive, Ex: 'Colonel' Green-Farouk-Norweb-Bass.
- 1843 Liberty eagle, PR64+ Deep Cameo PCGS. JD-1, High R.7. Only six examples exist, this one from a set presented to President Tyler.
- 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle, MS64 PCGS. BD-3, R.6, the single-finest certified 9 Leaves example and an important *Guide Book* variety.
- 1820 half eagle, MS66 PCGS. CAC. BD-7, High R.7, Dannreuther's "obvious proof," Ex: Melish-Norweb.
- 1882 Shield Earring dollar struck in silver, PR67+ Cameo PCGS. Judd-1702, Low R.7, finest-known example, among the most popular U.S. patterns.
- 1804 Plain 4 ten dollar struck in silver, PR66 PCGS. Judd-34, High R.7, the finest of four known, early U.S. Mint die trial.

Additional installments from the Harry Bass Core Collection will be held throughout 2023. The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation carries on the Bass legacy to this day, and will do so to an even greater extent upon the deaccessioning of the Core Collection. F. David Calhoun, Executive Director of the Harry W. Bass Foundation, says, "*The pandemic was a giant paradigm shift regarding our outlook for the future. There is just so much need. We've had to say no to so many deserving groups, and with the sale of this collection, we can now expand our funding and reach a lot more people, especially for the underserved populations of Dallas. We asked ourselves: How many more organizations can we fund? How many more lives can we positively impact? Our team is excited about what's to come.*"

Lot viewing for the Core Collection, Part II will be on January 2nd through 5th 2023 in Orlando, Florida, and by appointment on December 12th to 15th at our Dallas Headquarters. The Harry Bass Core Collection, Part II auction date is Thursday evening, January 5 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time in Orlando, FL. During the following week, Heritage's Official FUN Signature® auction will be held in Dallas on January 11-13 and 15. We look forward to your participation in what promises to be another record-setting FUN event in January 2023!

Sincerely,



Greg Rohan
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Greg@HA.com



Todd Imhof
Executive Vice-President
Todd@HA.com

THE HARRY W. BASS, JR. CORE COLLECTION



Harry Wesley Bass, Jr. was born on January 6, 1927, in Oklahoma City and was the first son of Wilma (Schuessler) and Harry Wesley Bass, Sr., an adventurous driller and producer of oil and gas as well as a pipeline operator. In 1932, the Bass business and family moved to Dallas, a city more centrally located for the management of the various companies created by Bass, Sr. who owned and developed oil and gas properties then spread across five southwestern states. From his arrival in Dallas in 1932, Harry Bass, Jr. called that city his home for the rest of his life. Summers often were spent at the family-owned Delmar Ranch, a spread on the Bosque River near Waco that eventually grew to be the largest working ranch in Central Texas. Following graduation from Texas Country Day School (now St. Mark's School of Texas) he briefly attended the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University.

Between "semesters" at SMU, he served for two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II, spending most of the time in the South Pacific. Soon after returning to Dallas, he married Mary Mathewson in 1947 and the couple immediately left for Calgary. They spent three years in Canada where Harry gained first-hand experience working for the family firm, Can-Tex. His progress was rapid; by the time he was 30, Harry was president of two corporations, H.W. Bass & Sons, Inc. and the Harry

Bass Drilling Co., and a director of two others, the Great National Life Insurance Co. and the Texas Bank & Trust Co. Of interest, he was elected a junior director of Texas Bank in 1951 when he was only 24, becoming a full director in 1956. In 1960, Goliad Oil & Gas Co. was added to the list of family businesses, witnessing a shift from the emphasis on drilling and producing. As Harry noted at the time, "Our newest projects involve extraction of butane, propane and natural gasoline and then marketing these products. Our companies that handle these products are Goliad Oil & Gas Co. and Goliad Corporation. These interests range from Northern Canada to South Texas and Louisiana."

Bass, Jr. also became very active in politics and by the age of 30 was elected Chairman of the Dallas County Republic Committee. He attributed his interest in politics to "a deep-seated respect for conservative politics" gained from his close association with Bass, Sr., and to "a sincere desire to take a part in deciding what philosophy of government this country is to follow."

In 1955, Harry organized the Dallas Ski Club, which quickly grew to over 700 members bent on making frequent winter excursions to the mountains of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. For Harry, skiing had become his "favorite form of relaxation." At the same time, he was also analyzing the ski industry, specifically Aspen as a resort destination.

"Oil, politics and skiing" is the catch phrase journalists used in the late 1950s to describe Harry Bass's principal interests. They could not have known that within a decade they could add a fourth term to the list of "Harry Bass's principal interests" – numismatics, the study of money. Unsurprisingly, his initial impetus to enter the field was long-term profit. Harry recounted his introduction to American coin collecting in a 1992 Coin World interview:

"In 1955, an accountant friend of Bass' asked him if he could obtain some 1955-D Washington quarter dollars, since the mintage on the coins was low. Bass served as a bank director at the time.

"Bass said he was able to obtain a \$10 roll of the coins for face value. Ten years later the friend brought that roll of quarter dollars back to Bass and explained a coin dealer down the street offered him 10 times the face value.

"That captured my attention," Bass said. "I looked at numismatics being first, perhaps, an investment vehicle."

Harry vividly recalled one of his first purchases – an 1803 Capped Bust U.S. eagle, obtained in 1965 from a New Orleans auction on his behalf by a friend. He had obeyed the dictate of the influential numismatist Aaron Feldman to "buy the book before the coin" and had already acquired an impressive general library. Armed with magnifying lenses clipped to his regular glasses and hand-held loupes of varying strengths, he set out to examine his new possession, promptly discovering the "14 star" reverse variety. Harry was later to say that this experience was the catalyst that led him to concentrate on die varieties of U.S. Federal gold coinage and later to advance to the study of die states and die mulings, as a means to gain insights into early U.S. Mint practices. At his death, Harry Bass had brought together easily the largest and most in-depth survey of U.S. Federal gold coinage ever assembled.

Beyond this astounding concentration, Harry developed other specialized collections of notable quality, including U.S. pattern, experimental, and trial pieces, with a prejudice toward acquiring those pieces struck in the precious metal of the ultimate intended coin. His collection of U.S. large-sized currency is also distinguished, covering the period of the initial "greenbacks" issued during the Civil War through 1930 when the small-sized notes were introduced. Among the great collections acquired intact by Bass was that of Robert Schermerhorn, bought from his estate and forming the nucleus of Harry's own paper money collection. A modest assemblage of silver coins, an extensive holding in California fractional gold pieces, and a discriminating collection of monetary materials related to Texas rounded out his numismatic collecting specialties.

The greatest public appreciation of Harry Bass's collecting acumen and the depth and quality of his research on U.S. Federal gold coins took place at the sixth annual Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society, November 4-5, 1989. For this occasion, Harry displayed over 1,500 prize coins from his collection, accompanied by a preliminary report of his collection by die variety and die state, using a system of his own devise, based on the prior work of Walter Breen.

In a keynote address to the gathering of over 80 attendees, Harry stressed the joys and the difficulties of collecting American gold, and outlined his reasons for using the descriptive nomenclature, "The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Reference Collection of United States Federal Gold Coins." The exhibition amply justified his choice of terms.

"This exhibit," said Bass, "is the realization of my lifelong dream, the culmination of my efforts to build a collection that merits being shown at the American Numismatic Society to a gathering of preeminent colleagues."

Bass's research, dedication, and eye for quality indeed culminated in one of the greatest numismatic achievements ever realized, and one that directly shaped the very way these United States coinage series are collected and understood today. It is with great honor, reverence, and appreciation of a true numismatic scholar that we offer here, in the first of many installments, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection.



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NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

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July 28, 2022

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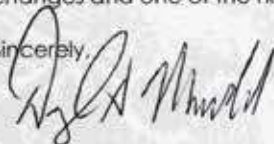
Dear Todd,

The final departure of the magnificent Harry W. Bass, Jr. collection of early U.S. gold and patterns was a sad moment for me as Curator and Director of the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum. The exhibit was opened on July 14, 2001 and it was taken down exactly 21 years to the day later. I had the honor to be responsible for the collection and the display since I arrived at the ANA on June 1, 2004. Working with the collection in cooperation with the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation and its executive director F. David Calhoun for the last 18 years has been an amazing experience and great privilege.

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. collection needs no introduction – it encompasses one of the finest collections of early U.S. gold from 1795 – 1834 ever put together, an impressive and important collection of U.S. Pattern coins and, of course, the incomparable complete collection of \$3 gold coins highlighted by the unique 1870 S piece. I have had the pleasure of closely examining the majority of the coins at one time or another as I prepared exhibits or selected objects for use in articles – and some have stood out in my memory as especially beautiful pieces, such as the extremely high relief Saint-Gaudens \$20, but, to be honest, what has always struck me is the sheer eye-appeal of almost every single specimen in the collection! From the spectacular half Union pattern in copper to the Amazonian patterns and the quintuple Stellas on to the early gold coins – so many of the coins are stunning and at the top of their types in terms of grade and eye appeal – in many cases the grade is really superfluous.

The fact that they were housed in one of the best-designed displays for viewing coins in the world only enhanced the collections' appeal. The Bass exhibit was, appropriately in light of its Harry Bass' interest in the application of technology to enhancing numismatic knowledge, endowed with cutting-edge technology for its time (2001) – fiber-optic lighting, a digital database accessible to visitors through multiple computer touch-screens and an audio tour accessible through hand-held. These features were combined with a physical design that combined luxurious beauty with a practical utility that focused the viewer's attention on the objects displayed – not on their setting. It was a privilege to be able to enhance the already spectacular display through improving the visibility of the coins through lighting and background changes and one of the highlights of my career as a numismatic curator.

Sincerely,



Douglas Mudd
Curator / Museum Director

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GOLD DOLLAR

1849 Open Wreath Gold Dollar, MS64+
Distant Stars, D-3



9001 1849 Open Wreath, D-3, Distant Stars, MS64+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. John Dannreuther documents five die varieties of 1849 gold dollars including one Closed Wreath variety and four Open Wreath die pairs. The D-3 variety has an initial L on Liberty's neck truncation, and has the star at 6:30 directly below the bust point and close to the border. This spectacular bright yellow-gold example that has been off the market for half-a-century features a brilliant, prooflike obverse and a satiny reverse. Both sides exhibit a bold strike and exceptional eye appeal.
Ex: Abner Kreisberg (privately, 4/23/1973).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 521675 Base PCGS# 7502

PROOF GOLD DOLLAR

1856 Gold Dollar, PR65 Deep Cameo
Slanted 5, First Year of the Type Three Design
From an Estimated Mintage of 20 Proofs



9002 1856 Slanted 5 PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. JD-1, High R.6.
Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The Type Three design was introduced in 1856, replacing the short-lived Indian Princess, Small Head motif employed for parts of three years between 1854 and 1856. It improved striking issues encountered with the Type Two design by enlarging Liberty's portrait and lowering relief to allow for better metal flow.

The 1856 Type Three gold dollar claims a mintage of 1.7 million circulation strikes. Some of those coins feature an Upright 5 in the date, while others have a Slanted 5. A small number of proofs were also manufactured with the Slanted 5. The official mintage went unrecorded, but John Dannreuther estimates in *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold, Part I* that only 20 proofs were minted of this date. About 12 to 14 of them survive.

In addition to this proof, there are five other submissions at PCGS — one each in PR64 and PR65, two in PR65 Deep Cameo, and one in PR66+ Deep Cameo — plus four more grading events at NGC. We should note that while the Floyd Starr Collection offered by Stack's in 1992 included an Upright 5 gold dollar cataloged as a proof, it was actually a prooflike business strike.

The Bass 1856 proof gold dollar showcases dramatic Deep Cameo contrast between the jet-black fields and frosty yellow-gold devices. Faint clash marks appear on each side, but there are few signs of post-mint contact. Small coppery alloy spots complement the attractive, natural color. Population: 3 in 65 Deep Cameo, 1 finer (11/22).

Ex: Auction '85 (*Paramount International Coin Corporation*, 7/1985), lot 1367.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 97606



EARLY QUARTER EAGLES

1796 BD-2 No Stars Quarter Eagle, MS63
Iconic First and Single-Year Type
Second on the Condition Census



9003 1796 No Stars on Obverse, BD-2, R.4, MS63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/b. The 1796 No Stars quarter eagle ranks among the most sought-after and important types in the entire United States series. Indeed, it ranks firmly within the *100 Greatest U.S. Coins* compiled by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth with the input of many of the hobby's top experts. Not only is the 1796 quarter eagle the first two and a half dollar gold issue manufactured in this country, this variant without stars around the obverse was struck only for a few months before being replaced by a modified version with stars. Walter Breen adds in his 1988 *Complete Encyclopedia*:

"This coin has three distinctions: It is the first precious-metal coin without stars issued for circulation by the USA prior to 1836; it is the first ever to show the heraldic eagle, which would become standard on all silver and gold denominations 1798-1807; it is the earliest made showing 16 rev. stars honoring Tennessee's admission."

Origins and Production

The quarter eagle was one of three gold denominations authorized under the Mint Act of April 2, 1792 along with the half eagle and eagle. While smaller denominations in copper and silver were struck early on, the prohibitively high bond that Mint officials were required to post before gold coinage could commence delayed output for five and ten dollar pieces until 1795. It was not until 1796 that two and a half dollar gold coins (and silver quarters) were finally struck.

Chief Engraver Robert Scot was responsible for the design of the 1796 No Stars quarter eagles. Scot designed the other silver and gold pieces then in circulation as well, and so his omission of stars around the obverse of this singular issue has long perplexed numismatists. Garrett and Guth write:

"The reason for [the lack of stars] remains uncertain. Some have suggested that the star punch used to engrave the dies broke. Another theory is that the Mint employees were reluctant to engrave the stars because new states were in the process of being admitted. With some states still in limbo, perhaps the Mint did not want to put an inaccurate number of stars on the coin."

Dave Bowers has even suggested that Robert Scot may simply have thought the design looked better starless. Whatever the actual reason, we know that this one obverse was paired with two different reverses in the production of 963 No Stars quarter eagles in 1796. The reverse dies are distinguished by the placement of the eagle's left (facing) claw relative to the U in UNITED. The claw is close to the U on BD-1, while it is farther from the U on BD-2, as here. It is believed that the BD-1 coins comprised the 66 pieces struck on September 21 and delivered on September 22 (Warrant 76), while BD-2 coins represented the 897 quarter eagles struck on November 8 and delivered exactly one month later on December 8 (Warrant 77), which, according to Breen, went to the Bank of the United States. It has long been suspected that the additional 432 quarter eagles struck in late 1796 and delivered on January 14, 1797 were of the With Stars variety (BD-3). Those figures are in line with the surviving populations for each variety.

Availability of the 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagle

The 1796 No Stars two and a half dollar is not simply a sought-after single-year type. It is a genuine rarity in all grades. Naturally, its low total mintage of 963 coins provides an excellent starting point in explaining its rarity today. It is also important to realize that these coins represented a considerable amount of money at the time — about a week's wages, per Garrett and Guth — and they were intended for commercial purposes. Prior to the boom in numismatics about mid-way through the 19th century, and possibly after, the 1796 quarter eagles, as well as other early gold pieces, were subject to extensive circulation, export in international trade, and melting, significantly reducing their availability in the numismatic market.

John Dannreuther estimates in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006) that just four to six examples of the BD-1 marriage exist. By contrast, there are believed to be 100 to 125 BD-2 representatives extant, though figures as low as a dozen have been suggested in the past, constituting the vast majority of the known population of this famous type.

The PCGS *Population Report* lists 78 total problem-free grading events for the 1796 No Stars quarter eagles, including both BD-1 and BD-2 varieties. At least two of those submissions represent the BD-1 variety (one in AU55 and the other in XF45), but the rest were struck from the BD-2 die marriage. The two most frequently awarded grades at PCGS are AU55 and AU58 with 19 and 16 submissions, respectively. We presume a number of those are duplications. Nearly all of the remaining coins at that service are in lower grades. Just eight entries have qualified for a Mint State assessment: two in MS61, three in MS62, one in MS62+, this Select example, and the finest known 1796 No Stars quarter eagle in MS65. It is entirely possible that those numbers are slightly inflated, especially in MS61 and MS62. The NGC *Census* data is similar in that the most frequently awarded grade is AU58, followed by a majority of certified representatives in lower circulated condition. The Mint State population is clearly inflated, with two submissions in MS60, three in MS61, three in MS62, two in MS63, and one in MS65 (the Parmelee example and undoubtedly the same MS65 as represented on the PCGS *Population Report*).

Given their widespread popularity and absolute rarity, it is unsurprising to find that 1796 No Stars quarter eagles are tightly held. Auction appearances are generally limited to only one or two sales a year, if that, and seldom in high grades. The Pogue, Simpson, Paramount, and now Bass sales have perhaps presented a few more opportunities to obtain the 1796 No Stars two and a half dollar in the finest known grades, but those opportunities remain scarce when one considers the thousands of rare and important United States coins sold on an annual basis. The most recent sale of a comparable example was lot 3780 in our sale of the Bob. R. Simpson Collection, Part VII. The coin was graded MS62+ PCGS CAC and realized \$2.16 million. The Harry W. Bass Core Collection coin takes second place on our roster of high-grade 1796 No Stars BD-2 quarter eagles, which was compiled with the help of Ron Guth of Numismatic Detective Agency, ahead of that Simpson example. It has been impounded at the ANA Money Museum for the past 22 years and is offered here publicly for the first time since at least 1974, when Harry Bass purchased it from dealer Abner Kreisberg.

Physical Description

Dave Bowers called this particular coin one of “the nicest examples we have seen” in his remarks for the 2001 *Bass Museum Sylloge*. That comment certainly squares with our years of experience in handling these fabulous rarities, and with the roster below. The obverse is struck from die state c with a thin die crack running through the base of LIBER(TY) and another that extends from the rim at 9 o'clock up into the upper portion of the left field. Liberty's curls have been ever so slightly lapped. Reverse die state b shows a small die lump above the tip of the eagle's right (facing) wing.

Whereas the vast majority of surviving 1796 No Stars quarter eagles exhibit moderately worn, lackluster surfaces, this Select Mint State offering is razor-sharp with remarkable vibrancy. The obverse exhibits partial contrast between Liberty's nearly fully detailed portrait and the semireflective fields that deliver almost jet-black look at certain angles. To be sure, the minimalist No Stars design enhances the effect, appearing quite literally like a carved stone cameo. A hint of softness occurs over the ear, but the design is otherwise razor-sharp. The reverse is more traditional in appearance — fully lustrous with uniform yellow-gold color. Central definition is just a touch soft on the eagle's neck feathers and the middle of the shield below the horizontals, similar to the obverse. The stars, legends, wing feathers, and tail, however, are impressively strong. Faint mint-made adjustment marks are also noted. Bowers suggests that the slight dark spots left of the hair curls “are likely the result of minor impurities in the planchet.” They have no effect whatsoever on the eye appeal, nor do the trivial marks that are expected not just for the grade, but for any early gold piece. Actually, marks are far less significant than expected.

The 1796 No Stars quarter eagle is an icon of American coinage — a singular first-year, low-mintage key date and one-year type that curiously, enigmatically lacks a device found on all other gold and silver coinage of the era. This particular example from the fabled Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, which will undoubtedly go down as one of, if not the greatest, sets ever put together is second to a single extant Gem. The chance to add this spectacular trophy coin to a fine set of United States gold rarities represents a monumental opportunity, a once in a generation (or two) event. We expect it will be met with a corresponding degree of enthusiasm and we await excitedly for the moment it crosses the block.

Roster of Mint State 1796 No Stars BD-2 Quarter Eagles

1. **MS65 PCGS.** Lorin G. Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp Co., 6/1890), lot 719, \$18; “C” (per a priced/named catalog on the Newman Numismatic Portal); Col. Robert C.H. Brock Collection; Philip H. Ward, Jr. Collection (Stack's, 5/1964), lot 1660, \$7,750; University of Pennsylvania Collection; Lelan Rogers Collection (Stack's/RARCOA/Akers “Numisma '95”, 11/1995), lot 1498, \$605,000; Cardinal Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 6/2005), lot 1002, \$1,380,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2008), lot 3058, \$1,725,000.
2. **MS63 PCGS.** Abner Kreisberg, sold privately on 2/27/1974; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3002). **The present coin.**
3. **MS63 NGC.** Ft. Lauderdale ANA (Superior, 3/2000), lot 712, \$178,250; Freedom Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 3380, \$287,500.
4. **MS63 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2004), lot 3004, \$138,000; offered by MikeByers.com at the 2/2012 Long Beach show for \$750,000; Philadelphia Signature (Heritage, 8/2012), lot 5281, \$252,625; Warshaw Family Collection (Heritage, 1/2020), lot 4325, \$300,000.
5. **Brilliant Uncirculated.** Lester Merkin, sold privately in 5/1970; John Whitney Walter Collection (Stack's, 5/1999), lot 1788, \$86,250; Marvin Taichert Collection (Stack's, 5/2001), lot 34, \$92,000.
6. **MS62+ PCGS CAC.** James Swan Collection; Oliver Jung Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 7/2004), lot 82, \$345,000; Samuel Berngard and S.S. New York Collections (Stack's, 7/2008), lot 2324, \$488,750; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part VII (Heritage, 1/2022), lot 3780, \$2,220,000.
7. **MS62 PCGS.** Harold P. Newlin, sold privately on 10/31/1884; Robert Garrett Collection; T. Harrison Garrett Collection; Robert Garrett Collection; John Work Garrett Collection, Part II (Bowers and Ruddy, 3/1980), lot 732, \$125,000; Ed Hips, sold privately; John Whitney Walter Collection (Stack's, 5/1999), lot 1787, \$299,000; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part I (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 5/2015), lot 1116, \$822,500.
8. **MS62 PCGS.** John Story Jenks Collection (Henry Chapman, 12/1921), lot 5784, \$140; James A. Stack, Sr. Collection (Stack's, 10/1994), lot 829, \$82,500; Denver Signature (Heritage, 8/2006), lot 5417, \$322,000; Werner Family Collection (Stack's Bowers, 8/2012), lot 11174, \$411,250; Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 10/2015), lot 55, \$352,500; earlyAurum Collection (PCGS Set Registry).
9. **MS62 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/1999), lot 7942, \$138,000; Ft. Lauderdale ANA (Superior, 3/2000), lot 713, \$103,500; Paramount Collection (Heritage, 2/2021), lot 3735, \$276,000.
10. **MS62 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 3379, \$253,000; Baltimore Auction (Stack's Bowers, 3/2012), lot 4258, \$258,750.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 25F2, PCGS# 45501 Base PCGS# 7645

1798 BD-2 Quarter Eagle, MS60
Wide Date, Five Berries
Dual-Denomination Reverse



9004 1798 Wide Date, Five Berries, BD-2, R.5, MS60 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a, having no evidence of the obverse die crack that appears through star 1 in the later Die State b. Two obverse dies and two reverse dies were prepared for the 1798 quarter eagle coinage. The rarer die pair combines a Close Date obverse with a Four Berries reverse, and this slightly more available variety features a Wide Date obverse and a Five Berries reverse. Neither variety is common, especially in Mint State grades. In fact, PCGS has certified one of the former and nine of the latter in grades from MS60 to MS65, and a combined total of just 30 submissions across all grades from a low of VF20 (11/22). When Walter Breen wrote his early gold monographs in the 1960s, he believed that this 1798 Wide Date variety was extremely rare, but changed his mind two decades later when his *Complete Encyclopedia* was published. Possibly as many as 80 examples of this variety survive, compared to two dozen of the 1798 Close Date quarter eagles.

The reverse die was used to produced 1798 JR-4 and 1800 JR-1 dimes in addition to these quarter eagles. The dual denomination usage was possible as the two denominations were nearly the same diameter, 19 mm. for dimes and 20 mm. for quarter eagles.

This rich green-gold example exhibits reflective fields that frame the softly lustrous devices. Scattered marks on each side prevent a higher grade despite exceptional eye appeal at this numerical level. Most of the peripheral design elements are nicely defined while central strike weakness is evident on the obverse. PCGS Wide Date Population: 2 in 60, 7 finer (11/22).

Ex: *Stack's* (2/1974), lot 496; *Stack's* (11/1974), lot 490; *Stack's* (privately, 12/1974).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 25F5, PCGS# 45505 Base PCGS# 7649

1806/4 BD-1 Quarter Eagle, AU58
Rare Terminal Die State



9005 1806/4 8x5 Stars, BD-1, High R.4, AU58 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/b. A prominent rim break on LI of LIBERTY identifies this terminal die state piece. This near-Mint example that served many years as the plate coin in Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins* shows typical weakness in the centers, as often encountered on this Capped Bust type. The bright yellow-gold surfaces exhibit delicate rose overtones. For several decades, this example with the obverse rim break was thought to be the lone survivor in the terminal die state. However, we have handled two other examples of this die state during the last several years. An AU55 PCGS example was offered in our April 2012 Central States Signature auction, and an AU58 NGC piece appeared in our December 2019 Dallas Signature auction. PCGS Population (for all die states): 12 in 58, 6 finer (11/22).

Ex: *Alto Collection* (Stack's, 12/1970), lot 60.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# BFWW, PCGS# 45512 Base PCGS# 7654



1808 BD-1 Quarter Eagle, MS62
A Single Variety Design
Low-Mintage Issue



9006 1808 BD-1, R.4, MS62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b. the obverse has a die crack through the right-most peak of the Phrygian Cap extending left over the second peak, and right to the adjacent star with a tiny lump near the northwest point of that star. A continuation of the crack connects stars 11 through 13. The Die State c die crack through the base of the date might exist on this piece although adjustment marks below the date obscure the possible details. The reverse die is described in Bass-Dannreuther as perfect with no clashing, cracking, or lapping. However, enlarged images of this piece show what seems to be a faint die crack from the wing tip to the border at 1:30. Minor spalling or die rust is scattered across the reverse die.

Reasons that the 1808 quarter eagle is one of the highly important issues among early U.S. gold coins includes a minimal production and its status as a one-year design. The mintage was minimal with the production halted after the coinage of 2,710 pieces. That is the eighth lowest annual production of any year from 1796 to early 1834, prior to the Classic Head coinage. The 1808 quarter eagle is also a one-year type. The Capped Bust design appeared on quarter eagles in 1808, and was not produced again. The list of one-year type coins in the regular U.S. gold series is short: 1796 No Stars quarter eagle, 1808 quarter eagle, 1907 With Periods Indian eagle, and the 1907 Ultra High Relief and High Relief double eagles.

As with the Classic Head copper coins and the Capped Bust silver coins, the designs for the Capped Bust gold coins are said to be the work of assistant Mint engraver John Reich. The notched star 13 on most silver and gold dies is said to be "John Reich's signature." The notch is seen on the southeast point of that star on the 1808 quarter eagles. The attribution of these dies to Reich comes from first-hand evidence in an April 2nd, 1807 letter that Mint Director Robert Patterson wrote to President Thomas Jefferson: "Mr. Reich is now preparing a set of new dies, in which some improvements in the devices will be introduced."

Over the years, numismatic catalogers have delighted in exaggerating this issue's rarity in Mint State grades. Estimates frequently state that less than 10 Mint State pieces exist, and some have said that only three to five such coins are known. Ron Guth's roster shows a dozen examples that grade between MS62 and MS65. In addition to those 12 coins, we believe that another dozen exists in MS60 or MS61 grades. Although there is likely some duplication, our notes include images of three dozen Mint State 1808 quarter eagles. PCGS and NGC have certified 28 submissions in grades from MS60 to MS65, and an additional 82 circulated grade pieces.

This frosty and fully lustrous light yellow-gold example has sharp central design motifs with typical weakness through the stars and outer peripheries. Similar striking characteristics are seen on most if not all 1808 quarter eagles. Few grade-limiting marks are noted. There is an old field scratch from Liberty's upper lip to star 4, and another faint line on the neck. The reverse has a barely visible field scratch below the eagle's wing near AMERICA. The obverse has light adjustment marks along the left border outside stars 3 through 6, and other adjust marks below the bust, date, and final star. Peripheral weakness on the reverse is a direct result of those adjustment marks. This piece provides a numismatic lesson on distinguishing mint-caused adjustment marks from post-mint scratches. Adjustment marks almost always affect the striking quality on the other side of the coin. Look for the weakness such as that seen on this piece. This extraordinary 1808 quarter eagle is tied for the sixth finest known. Population: 4 in 62, 2 finer (11/22).

1808 BD-1, Breen 1 Quarter Eagle, (the only known die pair)

1. MS65 PCGS. Lorin G. Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp Co., 6/1890), lot 856; John Story Jenks Collection (Henry Chapman, 12/1921), lot 5792; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; (B. Max Mehl, 5/1950), lot 11; Dr. J. Hewitt Judd Collection; Dr. Herbert Ketterman Collection, sold privately in 1982; James A. "Jimmy" Hayes Collection; Auction '84 (Stack's, 7/1984), lot 1372, \$99,000; Auction '89 (David W. Akers, 7/1989), lot 1361, \$231,000; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part I (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 5/2015), lot 1128, \$2,350,000.

2. MS63 PCGS CAC. Atlanta Signature (Heritage, 8/2001), lot 7585, \$73,600; Oliver Jung Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 7/2004), lot 84, \$322,000; (Stack's, 3/2007), lot 1441, \$425,500; (Stack's, 11/2008), lot 4176, \$517,500; Bob R. Simpson Collection (Heritage, 9/2020), lot 10122, \$576,000.

3. MS63 NGC. Springdale Collection (Superior, 5/2006), lot 992, \$218,500; (Bowers and Merena, 11/2010), lot 4781, \$316,250.

4. MS63 NGC. Auction '90 (Superior, 8/1990), lot 1252, \$77,000; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2012), lot 5286, \$223,250.

5. MS63 NGC. Larry H. Miller Collection (Stack's Bowers, 12/2020), lot 1115, \$276,000.

6. MS62 PCGS. Abner Kreisberg (3/1972), lot 1163; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3017). **The present coin.**

7. MS62 PCGS CAC. Rarities Sale (Bowers and Merena, 8/2004), lot 1433, \$207,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 3392, \$287,500; Madison Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2008), lot 3069, \$322,000; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2009), lot 2672, not sold.

8. MS62 PCGS. ANA Sale (Heritage, 7/1993), lot 7288, \$33,000.

9. MS62 PCGS. "... from an old Henry Chapman sale"; Richard Picker; Public Coin Auction (Stack's, 6/2001), lot 350, \$43,700.

10. MS62 NGC. Stack's Bowers (11/2019), lot 3134.

11. Brilliant Uncirculated Uncertified. 60th Anniversary Sale (Stack's, 10/1995), lot 1431, \$33,000.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# BFWZ, PCGS# 45515 Base PCGS# 7660

1825 BD-2 Quarter Eagle, Unc Details
Exceptional Eye Appeal



9007 1825 BD-2, High R.4 — Tooled — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details.
Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/a. This is the usual die state with no reverse die crack, and the variety is the most frequently encountered 1825 quarter eagle. Two other varieties are important rarities in the series. John Dannreuther estimates that 80 to 100 of these 1825 BD-2 quarter eagles survive, compared to a population estimate of 12 to 15 examples for each of the other varieties, BD-1 and BD-3. Light tooling is evident behind the cap, apparently in an effort to minimize the appearance of the surface mark between stars 9 and 10. The obverse of this brilliant yellow quarter eagle features reflective fields around frosted devices while the reverse exhibits brilliant mint frost. Both sides have splashes of russet toning.

When he offered this piece in 1970, Lester Merkin wrote: "Marked 'B. Unc.,' this is brilliant enough and unworn, but with various light bag marks and abrasions, and one small but plain nick behind head which someone has tried unsuccessfully to efface. Above upper r. corner of shield is a lint mark. Still superior to examples offered in the last two years."

Ex: Lester Merkin (4/1970), lot 651.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 45519 Base PCGS# 7664

1826/6 BD-1 Quarter Eagle, MS63
From the Garrett Collection
Likely the Finest Known



9008 1826/6 BD-1, High R.5, MS63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b, showing obverse and reverse clash marks, representing the terminal state of these dies. Mint records indicate that just 760 quarter eagles were minted in 1826, while John Dannreuther suggests that as many as 1,000 more coins minted in 1827 may have used the 1826-dated dies. However, the survival is extremely low, with Dannreuther also estimating a population of no more than 35 coins in all grades.

The 1826 quarter eagle was once considered an overdate, although most current students of the early quarter eagle series consider this variety to have a recut date. The Garrett Collection cataloger wrote: "Often catalogued as '1826/5,' but opinion is divided as to whether or not this is an authentic overdate. Clearly, the piece is at least a recut date for traces of another figure do appear under the terminal digit."

This amazing 1826 quarter eagle is the finest that is known to us. The fields are reflective and complement the lightly frosted devices. Hints of rose toning add to the overall appearance of this piece that speaks for itself. It is the finest of just four Mint State 1826 quarter eagles that PCGS has certified, outpacing two coins graded MS61 and one coin that is graded MS60. NGC has certified a single Mint State example as MS61 (11/22). This is just the second unimpaired Mint State example appearing in our Permanent Auction Archives behind the aforementioned MS61 NGC coin that we offered in June 2020.

Ex: Joseph J. Mickley; William Sumner Appleton; W. Elliot Woodward (privately, 1/23/1883); Garrett Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 3/1980), lot 746.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# BFW5, PCGS# 45521 Base PCGS# 7665

PROOF EARLY QUARTER EAGLE

1834 BD-1 Quarter Eagle, PR62
The Only Certified Proof



9009 1834 Capped Bust PR62 PCGS. JD-1, High R.7. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Proof examples of the 1834 Capped Bust quarter eagle are much rarer than once thought, with a surviving population of just four or five coins, and those are mostly impaired. In his *Complete Encyclopedia* that was published in 1988, Walter Breen presented a roster of 15 proof examples. Today, John Dannreuther's reference on proof gold records just four examples.

The Act of June 28, 1834 changed production of gold coins, effective August 1 of that year, by slightly reducing the weight, bringing their intrinsic or bullion value back in line with the denomination. The design was changed to the now familiar Classic Head style which continued through 1839. This variety was the final issue of the "old tenor" gold coins with a mintage of 4,000 pieces. It is probably the case that most of the 4,000 coins minted were later melted, as Dannreuther estimates a total population of no more than two dozen coins, including proofs and circulation strikes. Our notes are consistent with that figure.

The present piece, certified PR62 PCGS, was described as "Brilliant Uncirculated, with full proof-like surface," in the October 1971 *Stack's* catalog of the Shapero Collection. This brilliant yellow-gold quarter eagle, while exhibiting slightly rubbed fields, has fully mirrored fields that frame lustrous devices. Its proof status is undoubted. This is the only certified proof 1834 Capped Bust quarter eagle at PCGS or NGC (11/22).

The earlier and later provenance of this piece is uncertain. This coin matches the plate in the Shapero catalog, and Harry W. Bass, Jr. recorded that auction as the source of his coin, so that provenance is certain. The Bass Museum Sylloge includes the statement: "Earlier from James Ten Eyck, Belden Roach, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., New Netherlands 49: 575, Grant Pierce, and R.L. Miles." In his proof gold reference, John Dannreuther adds a later provenance of Auction '85 (RARCOA, 7/1985), lot 367 and Auction '89 (David Akers, 7/1989), lot 1366. Neither of those additional provenance statements appear to be correct. This example does not match the Auction '85 coin that reappeared in Auction '89, while that coin matches the plates in the Grant Pierce and R.L. Miles catalogs. This piece also does not appear to match the plate of either B. Max Mehl sale (Ten Eyck and Roach), nor of the 49th New Netherlands auction.

Ex: *Shapero Collection* (*Stack's*, 10/1971), lot 750.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 7689

CLASSIC QUARTER EAGLE

1834 Two and a Half, MS66+
HM-2, Large Head, Lustrous and Sharp
Finest-Certified Example



9010 1834 Large Head, HM-2, R.3, MS66+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The Classic Head type was designed by Chief Engraver William Kneass to accompany a weight reduction for gold coins, as dictated by Congress in the Act of June 28, 1834. Prior to the decree, gold coin had not circulated at par for many years, resulting in extremely low mintages for all gold denominations. The new Classic quarter eagles had a 4.4% gold reduction (3 grains) per coin, enough to eliminate hoarding and freeing up the Mint to increase gold coin production. Accordingly, the 1834 Classic Head quarter eagle boasts a large 112,234-piece mintage, accomplished by four die marriages. Three of those die pairs are the Large Head design, nicknamed the “Booby Head” by John H. Clapp, although James Ross Snowden attached the sobriquet to 1839 large cents in *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States in 1860*. Previously, Edward Cogan described an 1839 Booby Head cent in a November 1858 catalog. The HM-2 variety is the first Large Head appearance, and represents about 27% of the known 1834 Classic quarter eagle survivors.

The obverse die struck all three 1834 Large Head varieties (HM-2, HM-3, and HM-4). Recutting at stars 2 and 3 characterize the obverse, with 4 in the date close to Liberty’s curl. The reverse die is in its sole 1834 use on this HM-2 variety, although the reverse is later seen on 1835 and 1836 quarter eagles. The lowest arrowhead is tucked close to the left stand of the second A in AMERICA, with A and M widely spaced. An undersized numerator “1” in the fraction touches the diagonal. As part of the new Classic Head design, the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM in its scroll was eliminated. The eagle has no tongue on the HM-2 variety.

This coin is the finest 1834 Classic quarter eagle example in the Harry Bass, Jr. Core Collection, as well as the finest-certified 1834 Classic quarter eagle at either PCGS or NGC. We sold a splendid 1834 MS66★ NGC coin at our August 2011 Platinum Night event, although that excellent piece was the more-available HM-1 Small Head variant. This Large Head HM-2 coin stands apart, with high-end Premium Gem surfaces that display vibrant mint luster across semiprooflike fields augmented by sharply struck, frosty devices. Vivid green-gold color disperses evenly across both sides, complemented by faint honey-gold accents. Magnification reveals a few light marks and hair-thin lines, but they are so infrequent as to pose no distraction whatsoever to the sparkling surface quality that resonates throughout both sides. CAC endorsement offers additional quality confirmation. Long absent from the market, this splendid jewel is sure to challenge the record price for an 1834 quarter eagle, regardless of variety or assigned grade.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman on April 28, 1967.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 25FS, PCGS# 764688 Base PCGS# 7692

PROOF CLASSIC QUARTER EAGLE

1835 Quarter Eagle, HM-1, PR67 Deep Cameo
The Finest Proof Classic Head Quarter Eagle
Ex: Earle-Clapp-Eliasberg



9011 1835 HM-1, JD-1, High R.7 as a Proof, PR67 Deep Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Both dies are perfect with no clash marks, die cracks, or signs of lapping. Only one obverse die was created in 1835 and that die appeared on all three varieties. The M in AMERICA is broken on this variety and represents the second use of the reverse die following 1834 HM-4. Another 1834 reverse die, with AM in AMERICA widely spaced, reappeared on 1835 HM-2. The third reverse die, with AM closely spaced and that M perfect, was created in 1835 for HM-3.

The new Classic Head design is a radical departure from the previous design. Liberty no longer wears a cap, and the reverse lacks the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM. Introduced in 1834, the Classic Head design coincided with the weight reduction authorized for the gold coins that was intended to promote circulation. Previously, the gold value of quarter eagles and half eagles was actually greater than the face value.

Proof Classic Head quarter eagles are known for each date in the series from 1834 to 1839. In his proof gold encyclopedia, John Dannreuther identifies eight proofs of 1834, four of 1835, seven of 1836, four of 1837, one of 1838, and four of 1839, a total of 28 coins. Additional appearances may represent a few other proofs, but the total population is likely less than three dozen examples for the Classic Head type. The Smithsonian Institution has four proofs and one is held in the British Museum.

This example from the Eliasberg Collection with an earlier provenance to the George H. Earle Collection is the finest certified proof Classic Head quarter eagle, the only one to garner the PR67 numerical grade, and one of just four PCGS submissions boasting the Deep Cameo designation.

The Eliasberg cataloger called this coin "Choice Brilliant Proof-65" and wrote further:

"Tiny lint mark as made in the field to the right of F in OD on reverse. Deeply and sharply struck.

"Exceedingly rare. Walter Breen notes that Wayte Raymond reported five examples, Breen himself verifies three, and David Akers cites five auction appearances (which may include duplications of the same coin). To say that fewer than a half dozen exist would seem to be correct, and perhaps the number is closer to three or four.

"The number originally minted in Proof is nowhere recorded. As there was no special reason (such as a new design) for coining them, apart from inclusion in year sets, it could well be the case that fewer than 10 were made.

"One of the more outstanding quarter eagles in the present offering."

The Eliasberg Collection included proofs of 1834, 1835, 1836, and 1837. Harry W. Bass, Jr. purchased all four of those coins. The 1834 and 1835 proofs were retained as type coins for the core collection, while the 1836 and 1837 were sold in May 2000. A case might have been made to retain all four of those proofs as type coins due to the different head styles illustrated in Daryl J. Haynor's *Classic Gold Coins 1834-1839*.

Both sides of this Superb Gem Deep Cameo proof are exquisite. The central obverse and reverse design elements are weakly defined on this piece, as they are on most examples of the type. The brilliant yellow-gold fields are deeply mirrored and contrast remarkably well with the frosted, lustrous devices. Minor struck through defects on the reverse are as minted. Glimpses of mirrored surface are seen within the devices where those elements are on the same level as the fields, including the spaces between the vertical stripes in the shield on the reverse.

The opportunity to bid on and acquire a proof 1835 quarter eagle represents an important numismatic event. This is the first auction appearance since May 1998 and only the fifth in more than 100 years! Ron Guth's census, below, shows previous auction appearances of 1835 proof quarter eagle in 1890, 1904, 1911, 1912, 1946, 1948, 1982, and 1998.

Roster of 1835 JD-1 Proof Quarter Eagles

1. PR67 Deep Cameo PCGS. George H. Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2525; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 102, \$30,800; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 1009). **The present coin.**

2. PR65 NGC. Lorin G. Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp Co., 6/1890), lot 1046, \$16; John G. Mills Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 4/1904), lot 549; William H. Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911), lot 954; F.C.C. Boyd Collection ("World's Greatest Collection") (Numismatic Gallery, 1/1946), lot 102; Memorable Collection (Numismatic Gallery / Abe Kosoff & Abner Kreisberg, 3/1948), lot 96; John Jay Pittman Collection, Part II (David Akers, 5/1998), lot 1719, \$176,000.

3. PR64 Deep Cameo Uncertified (grade per John Dannreuther). Mint Cabinet Collection, presumably transferred from Adam Eckfeldt in 1838; National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

Additional Examples

A. Brilliant Proof Uncertified. J.F. Bell (Jacob Shapiro) Collection (not plated) (Stack's, 12/1944), lot 102; Davis-Graves Collection (plated, but a poor image) (Stack's, 4/1954), lot 685. This example is questionable because Jacob Shapiro sold coins in the 1944 "J.F. Bell" Collection and the 1948 "Memorable" Collection. It seems reasonable that it might be the same coin. There was no pedigree mentioned in the Davis-Graves Collection, but somehow that connection was made and repeated by Breen and Akers.

B. PR65 PCGS. Unidentified grading event. Dannreuther suspected that this might have been either the Pittman coin (#2 above) or the Davis-Graves example (A).

C. Proof. B. Max Mehl (12/1922), lot 102; Virgil Brand (journal #125165). Mehl described this piece as a "Perfect Brilliant Proof."

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 97711 Base PCGS# 7711

THREE DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

1854-D Three Dollar, AU58
Incredibly Sharp Throughout
'Among the Very First Examples Struck'



9012 1854-D AU58 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Although several Dahlonega quarter eagles and half eagles are more challenging acquisitions in the absolute sense, the 1854-D three dollar is uniquely appealing as the only issue of this denomination struck at the Georgia branch mint. It also boasts one of the lowest mintages of any denomination struck at Dahlonega (only 1,120 pieces). The date has been considered one of the rarest issues in the three dollar series for many decades, even as far back as the 1980s, when David Akers prepared his auction record analysis for U.S. gold. Akers noted:

“Specimens of this date are usually grossly overgraded, partly because the date is a very rare one, but also because they are just hard to grade and the tendency with most auctioneers is to be optimistic when there is a doubt. I have seen several AU pieces but never an unequivocally mint state one. Even strictly graded EF specimens are very rare.”

Since the dawn of third party grading, more high-grade pieces have come to light, although high-end AU pieces remain rare, and only a handful of Mint State coins are known. PCGS and NGC combined report 13 Mint State submissions, but this figure likely includes duplication. Doug Winter, in *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint*, third edition, estimates that only two to four Mint State pieces survive, with only 125 to 175 examples of the date known overall. The finest pieces known are a pair of MS62 coins — one each at NGC and PCGS. The NGC piece has not appeared at public auction since 2006, while the PCGS coin, Ex: Pogue and CAC endorsed, realized \$528,000 in Stack’s Bowers’ recent Summer 2022 sale.

The Bass specimen is a high-end AU58 piece. It is one of only five pieces in this grade with CAC approval, and only the Pogue coin is finer with CAC endorsement. Luster glistens in the fields of this coin, illuminating remarkably clean surfaces with few abrasions and only slight high-point wear. But the hallmark of this piece is its strike. Akers wrote of this issue, “All specimens that I have seen are very poorly struck with very little hair on the headdress detail and weak or missing denticles.” Similarly, Winter describes dentil weakness being a rampant problem on this issue, with portions of the border typically showing no dentilation at all on either side. However, he adds:

“At least two 1854-D three dollar gold pieces are known which show nearly full denticles. These coins are in the Bill House and Harry Bass collections and they may represent among the very first examples struck.”

The Bass Museum *Sylloge* notes:

“Harry Bass recalled that he once teased his dealer friend Michael G. Brownlee about having such a sharply struck coin, and Brownlee said that it was impossible — for no such 1854-D existed. Then Harry showed him one! (This piece listed below.)”

Indeed, the Bass specimen is the sharpest 1854-D three dollar that we have ever seen, surpassing the sharpness of every Mint State example we have handled, and even overshadowing the Pogue specimen. Both sides showcase sharp, fully formed dentils and profound central device sharpness such that no obvious weakness is noted, with perhaps slight softness seen only on the wreath bowknot. Eye appeal is outstanding for a three dollar gold piece in AU58, but among 1854-D threes, this is coin is in a class by itself. Population: 12 in 58, 4 finer. CAC: 5 in 58, 1 finer (10/22).

Roster of High-Grade 1854-D Three Dollar Pieces

1. **MS62 PCGS.** Auction ‘81 (RARCOA, 7/1981), lot 386, \$72,500; George Elliott Collection (Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, 1/1987), lot 1814; (Superior, 1/1996), lot 2277, \$74,800; (Superior, 1/1996), lot 2277, \$72,600; Hanks and Associates, sold privately; Great Lakes Collection; Hanks and Associates, sold privately as part of an entire collection in 10/2005; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part III (Stack’s Bowers & Sotheby’s, 2/2016), lot 3090, \$188,000; (Stack’s Bowers, 8/2022), lot 6072, \$528,000.
 2. **MS62 NGC.** Duke’s Creek Collection (Heritage, 4/2006), lot 1516, \$149,500.
 3. **MS61 PCGS.** Robert Hughes, sold privately in 2001; Green Pond Collection (Heritage, 1/2004), lot 1037, \$92,000; Ohringer Family Trust Holdings, Part II (Goldberg Auctions, 9/2008), lot 1232, \$126,500; D.L. Hansen Collection.
 4. **MS61 NGC.** Kannywood Collection (American Numismatic Rareities, 1/2005), lot 887, not sold; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Goldberg Auctions, 9/2008), lot 1425, \$77,625; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2011), lot 5057, \$97,750.
 5. **MS61 NGC.** Buffalo Bayou Collection, Part II (Heritage, 1/2022), lot 4688, \$114,000.
 6. **MS60 PCGS.** Kingswood, 3/2001, lot 438, \$46,575; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 2/2002), lot 2354, not sold.
 7. **MS60 NGC.** Kupersmith Once in a Lifetime Collection (Bowers and Merena, 11/2010), lot 4989, \$56,103; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4804, \$57,500.
 8. **MS60 NGC.** Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 6/2000), lot 2162; Hayden Collection (Heritage, 1/2020), lot 4376, \$52,800.
 9. **Unc Details, Uncertified.** Dr. E. Yale Clarke Collection (Stack’s, 10/1975), lot 2; Reed Hawn Collection (Stack’s, 10/1993), lot 966, \$17,600.
 10. **AU58 PCGS.** Superior Galleries, sold privately on 3/28/1978; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 4002). **The present coin.**
- From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
NGC ID# 25M4, PCGS# 7970

1870-S Three Dollar Gold, SP50
Legendary San Francisco Mint Rarity
Only Available Example
Ex: Woodin-‘Colonel’ Green-Eliasberg-Bass



9013 1870-S SP50 – 893 Engraved – PCGS. Unique. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The 1870-S three dollar gold piece is among the rarest and most enigmatic coins in the U.S. federal series. Only a single example of this classic numismatic rarity is known to collectors, though reliable reports indicate a second specimen may reside in a ceremonial casket that was placed under the cornerstone of the Second San Francisco Mint in 1870. Of course, the cornerstone example is clearly out of reach of present day numismatists, making the coin offered here essentially unique. It is common practice for catalogers to compare ultra-rare coins they describe to other established numismatic rarities, ones that potential bidders can easily recognize and appreciate, like the 1804 dollar, or the 1913 Liberty nickel. That tactic seems inadequate in the case of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece, which is 15 times rarer than the 1804 dollar and five times rarer than the 1913 Liberty nickel. Q. David Bowers once compared owning the 1870-S to owning the Mona Lisa, perhaps a more meaningful comparison. Both are unique and, to the collectors who understand and appreciate them, both are priceless. Heritage Auctions is privileged to present this unique numismatic treasure in just its third auction appearance.

The Mysterious 1870-S Rarities

For collectors, the coinage of certain calendar years carries a special cachet, because of the famous numismatic rarities that bear that particular date. Any numismatist can enthusiastically expound on the merits of the coinage of 1804 and 1875, for example. For branch mint enthusiasts, the coinage of the San Francisco Mint in 1870 is in a class of its own. Despite the fact that there is no mention of any 1870-S half dimes, quarters, silver dollars, or three dollar gold pieces in the Mint Director's annual report for 1870, recent research by Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly confirms that examples of those denominations were struck, and even casual collectors know they are all fabulous rarities.

In an article in the April 12, 2004 issue of *Coin World*, Oliver and Kelly describe an exhaustive search of official San Francisco Mint records at San Bruno, California, and the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, which culminated in an exciting discovery. Located in Records Group 104, they found a purchase warrant, dated June 1, 1870, for \$49.60, which included a 12.5 % premium for exchanging precious-metal coinage with currency. The warrant contained an itemized list of coins purchased: one coin of each of the gold and silver denominations struck by the U.S. Mint in 1870, including the four denominations not listed in the Mint Report. The warrant was signed by Clerk W.F. Tracy and verified by San Francisco Mint Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead. The coins were produced in conjunction with the official ceremony celebrating the laying of the cornerstone of the Second San Francisco Mint and were to be placed in a time capsule with other selected items in a cavity in the foundation below the cornerstone.

San Francisco June 1st 1870.

U.S. Branch Mint
To
W. F. Tracy *D. r.*

To Gold & Silver Coins furnished for Corner Stone
of New Branch Mint at San Francisco. Cal.
of the following denominations.

<i>1- \$20.⁰⁰, 1- \$10.⁰⁰, 1- \$5.⁰⁰, 1- \$2.⁰⁰, 1- \$3.⁰⁰, 1- \$1.⁰⁰ gold</i>	<i>\$41.50</i>
<i>1- \$1.⁰⁰, 1- .50¢, 1- .25¢ 1- 10¢, 1- .05¢ silver.</i>	<i>1.90</i>
	<i>\$43.40</i>
<i>Correct</i>	<i>Currency @ 87½ \$49.60</i>
<i>J. B. Harmstead</i> <i>Coiner</i>	<i>Rec^d Paymt</i> <i>W. F. Tracy</i>
<i>Correct Geo. Parry</i>	

The warrant clearly establishes that at least one coin of each of the gold and silver denominations was legitimately struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1870. However, coins of the four denominations that were not struck for mass circulation should not exist outside the cornerstone casket, which should still be ensconced in the foundation of the Mint building. Nevertheless, several "duplicate" specimens of the cornerstone coins have surfaced over the years. A single example of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece (the coin offered here) has been known to the numismatic community since 1907, and a single 1870-S half dime surfaced under mysterious circumstances in 1978. Nine examples of the 1870-S Seated Liberty silver dollar can be confirmed today, but no specimen of the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter has ever come to light. Several theories have been proposed to explain the existence of the "duplicate" three dollar gold piece, silver dollars, and half dime, but none of them are universally accepted. These coins' creation is a mystery that has puzzled numismatists for more than 150 years.

The San Francisco Mint in 1870

The San Francisco Mint was authorized on July 3, 1852 and began coinage operations in 1854. The facility was located in the building formerly owned by the private coinage firm of Curtis, Perry, and Ward, at 608 Commercial Street. Thanks to its proximity to the flourishing California gold fields, the new branch mint struck a prodigious amount of coinage in its early years, and the old Curtis, Perry, and Ward facility was clearly inadequate to the task. The building was too small and not properly ventilated, resulting in cramped work spaces filled with noxious fumes. Despite the handicaps, the staff succeeded in turning out a tremendous volume of coinage, but it was obvious that a new facility was needed.

Accordingly, work began on a grand new building in 1869. The new edifice was located at the corner of Fifth and Mission Streets and designed by noted architect Alfred B. Mullett. The new building was constructed in a conservative Greek Revival style, with two stories, a portico supported by Doric columns, a basement, and an open central courtyard that included a well.

The building was based on a solid concrete and granite foundation and the walls were up to five feet thick, faced with blocks of granite and sandstone. The interior included marble floors and fireplaces, carved wood panels, and opulent furnishings. It was the largest mint in the world at that time, and its solid construction enabled it to survive the disastrous earthquake and fire that leveled most of the city in 1906. The building claims a special place in numismatic history, as its construction was directly responsible for the creation of several fabulous rarities, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece.



The Cornerstone Celebration

The cornerstone of the new branch mint was laid in an elaborate ceremony on May 25, 1870. The celebration was conducted by several Masonic lodges from the region, following the established traditions of their order. The festivities included a grand procession composed of military bands and several hundred Masonic dignitaries in full regalia who marched from the Masonic Temple to the construction site. Seats and bleachers had been erected at the northeast corner of the building to accommodate 3,000 spectators, but the *Daily Alta California* newspaper estimated a huge crowd of 6,000 local citizens had assembled by the time the procession reached the site. San Francisco Mint Supervisor O.H. La Grange addressed the crowd and invited Grand Master Leonidas E. Pratt to lay the cornerstone. Pratt responded:

“Brother Senior Grand Warden: It has been the custom among the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, from time immemorial, to assemble for the purpose of laying the foundation stones of public buildings, when required so to do by those having authority. The Grand Lodge of the State of California having been invited by the Superintendent of Construction of this edifice to lay the cornerstone thereof, has, by my order, been here convened, and it is my will and pleasure that it do now assist me in the performance of that pleasing duty.”

Pratt proceeded with the ceremony, noting:

“Brother Grand Treasurer: it has ever been the custom of the Craft upon occasions like the present, to deposit within a cavity in the stone placed at the northeast corner of the edifice, certain memorials of the period at which it was erected; so that if, in the lapse of ages, the fury of the elements, the violence of man, or the slow but certain ravages of time, should lay bare its foundations, an enduring record may be found by succeeding generations, to bear testimony to the untiring, unending industry of the Free and Accepted Masons. Has such a deposit now been prepared?”

Grand Treasurer James Laidley replied:

“It has, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the various articles of which it is composed are safely enclosed within the casket now before you.”

The contents of the casket were then read, which consisted of many official documents, including the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint from the previous year, the City Directory and San Francisco Almanac, maps and photographs of the city, and “one of each denomination of the several coins of the United States of America, all struck off at the San Francisco Branch Mint in the year 1870.”

Grand Master Pratt then directed:

“Brother Grand Treasurer: You will now deposit the casket in the cavity beneath the cornerstone; and may the Great Architect of the Universe, in His wisdom, grant that ages upon ages shall pass away ere it again be seen of men.”

This account, which was published in the *Daily Alta California* newspaper on May 26, 1870, corroborates the striking of the cornerstone coins, as spelled out in the warrant found by Oliver and Kelly, but adds no information about the “duplicate” coins.

Striking the Coins for the Cornerstone Celebration

The Philadelphia Mint shipped the following dies for 1870 coinage to San Francisco on December 15, 1869:

- Ten obverse and six reverse dies for double eagles.
- Four obverse and reverse dies for eagles.
- Four obverse and reverse dies for half eagles.
- Four obverse and reverse dies for quarter eagles.
- Two reverse dies for three dollar gold pieces.
- Two reverse dies for gold dollars.
- Six obverse and reverse dies for half dollars.
- Six obverse and reverse dies for dimes.
- Six obverse and reverse dies for half dimes.

Dies sent for 1870 coins

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia Dec. 15. 1869.

Sir.

Enclosed please find receipts of the Adams Express Company for a box of dies for the B. Mint at San Francisco for the year 1870 of which the following is a detailed schedule viz:

	Obverse	Reverse
Double Eagles.	10	6
Eagles	4	4
Half Eagles.	4	4
Quarter Eagles	4	4
Three Dollar	—	2
One Dollar	—	2
Half Dollar	6	6
Quint.	6	6
Half Dime.	6	6
	40.	40.

as per your order of Sept 23rd. Please advise me of their safe arrival.

Respectfully Yours,
John Pollock
Director.

O. H. LaGrange Esq

In addition, the San Francisco Mint received six pairs of dies for striking quarters on January 14, 1870. Since the one dollar and three dollar gold coins had the date punched on the reverse dies, which were included in the December shipment, and there were presumably some serviceable obverse dies from previous years on hand at the San Francisco Mint, the facility should have had all the dies needed to strike the cornerstone coins by January 14, except for the Seated Liberty silver dollar. Mint records indicate six reverse dies for the silver dollar had been sent to the San Francisco Mint in 1866, and no silver dollars had been struck at that facility since. Presumably, these reverse dies were still undamaged and available in 1870. Ingenious research by Oliver and Kelly, John Dannreuther, and Dick Osburn established that the obverse die used to strike the 1870-S silver dollars was borrowed from the Carson City Mint for the occasion. It was the same obverse die used previously to strike the OC-1 variety of the 1870-CC Seated Liberty dollar.

Unfortunately, many unforeseen difficulties arose when the time came to strike the coins. The Philadelphia Mint had neglected to punch the mintmarks on the reverse dies for the one dollar and three dollar gold coins, a fact that went unnoticed until the cornerstone ceremony was imminent. On May 14, 1870, just 11 days before the cornerstone was laid, San Francisco Mint Superintendent O.H. LaGrange sent the following telegram to Mint Director James Pollock in Philadelphia:

"Letter S omitted on the One and Three Dollar Dies sent to this branch for this year. 2,000 pieces coined. Can they be issued?"

It is not clear if the 2,000 coins mentioned were one dollar or three dollar pieces, or a mix of both denominations, but most present day numismatists believe they were gold dollars. In any case, Pollock ruled against their release in his response, sent the same day:

"Not issue, but recoin the pieces. Will send dies."

Pollock followed up with two telegrams on May 16:

"Please return to me by express, the dies for the San Francisco coinage, from which the letter 'S' was omitted."

Followed by:

"Enclosed please find receipt of the Adams Express Company for a package for one sett of Dies for three-dollar pieces, and two setts ditto for one dollar pieces to replace the dies specified in your telegram of the 13th inst, from which the letter 'S' had been omitted. Not being able to determine whether the defective one-dollar dies were for Gold or Silver coin, I have sent one sett of each. Please advise me of their safe arrival."

The exact date the replacement dies arrived in San Francisco is unknown, but the typical time for a cross-country shipment on the newly completed transcontinental railroad was about a week, so the dies could have arrived as early as May 23. This would have been in time to strike coins for the cornerstone celebration, but it seems that LaGrange and Harmstead were afraid they would be too late and jumped the gun on striking the three dollar piece for the ceremony. At some point, Harmstead hand-engraved the S mintmark into one of the 1870 reverse dies that had been sent in December and used it to strike the cornerstone piece. Apparently, the dies arrived before he had a chance to repeat the procedure with the gold dollar die, so he struck that piece for the cornerstone casket using the newly arrived dies.

Alternatively, Oliver and Kelly note it is possible that the Philadelphia Mint inexplicably repeated their original mistake and sent two more three dollar reverse dies without mintmarks. Then, Harmstead had to hurriedly engrave the S on the new die and strike the coin immediately before the ceremony.



On May 27, two days after the cornerstone ceremony, LaGrange wrote to Pollock:

"I enclose herewith the receipt of Wells Fargo & Co. for one dollar and three dollar dies which were yesterday forwarded to you at Philadelphia. It is proper to state that our coiner [J.B. Harmstead] cut the letter S on the three dollar die after it was received here for the purpose of stamping a single piece to be put in the casket of the cornerstone of our new mint building. Only one piece was struck under my direction for the purpose above stated."

Pollock replied on June 2:

"Your letter dated 27th of May has been received together with the returned dies. The special use made of one of them in a single instance, was very proper and unobjectionable, under the circumstances."

Many collectors believe the coins for the cornerstone celebration were specially struck for the occasion as part of the festivities, but there is no evidence to support this. The *Daily Alta California* account of the proceedings specifically mentions the coins being placed in the casket, but says nothing about their striking. Of course, the half dime, quarter, silver dollar, and three dollar gold piece must have been produced specifically for the ceremony, as there was no regular coinage of those denominations at the San Francisco Mint that year. There is some evidence that about a dozen 1870-S silver dollars were struck as presentation pieces, possibly for the Masonic dignitaries that attended the cornerstone ceremony, in addition to the one included in the casket. The dime, gold dollar, quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and double eagle that were placed in the cornerstone were probably just selected from the regular-issue stock of coins on hand at the Mint, sometime before the ceremony took place.

It also seems unlikely that any of the coins were specially struck. All the surviving silver dollars are circulation-strike examples. The only known 1870-S half dime is graded MS64 by PCGS and shows no sign of being struck in proof format. The sole 1870-S three dollar gold piece is listed in John Dannreuther's reference on proof gold coins, but he makes it clear in the writeup that it is impossible to tell what format the coin was struck in, due to light wear and its use in jewelry. There is also no mention of a proofing charge on the warrant for the cornerstone coins. All evidence suggests no proofs were struck, but PCGS does classify the three dollar gold piece as a Specimen, or Special Strike, per PCGS CoinFacts.

Theories About the "Extra" 1870-S Half Dime and Three Dollar Gold Piece

For many years, numismatists have theorized that Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead must have clandestinely struck a second example of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece, since the present coin first surfaced in 1907, wrapped in a note from him that claimed the piece was a duplicate of the coin in the cornerstone cache. Alternatively, some have suggested that the coin offered here actually is the cornerstone specimen, with Harmstead stealing it (and the half dime) before the box was placed in the cornerstone niche. Against these theories is extensive research by Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly that reveals Harmstead to have been an honest man, of good character. His later handling of the coin clearly indicates that he had no intention of selling the piece for profit, as he scratched the mysterious numerals 893 on the reverse at an early date. In addition, the coin shows clear signs of being removed from a jewelry mount at 6 o'clock on the obverse. These are not the actions of a man who hoped to maximize his profit from the sale of ill-gotten goods.

A third theory postulates that the half dime and three dollar gold piece were "liberated" from the cornerstone when the building was damaged during the great fire and earthquake of 1906. This seems unlikely, as the Second San Francisco Mint was one of the few surviving buildings in that area, earning it the affectionate sobriquet of the "Granite Lady." Researchers believe they have identified the cornerstone in recent years and it remains intact and essentially undamaged. Furthermore, the three dollar gold piece was mounted as a jewelry piece and had acquired some noticeable wear by the time it surfaced in 1907. It is doubtful that the condition of the coin would have altered so much in less than a year. Finally, no example of the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter has ever surfaced, and it is hard to believe anyone looting the cornerstone would have overlooked such an obvious rarity.

Recent research by several numismatists suggests a fourth possibility. Mint policy in 1870 required the San Francisco Mint to submit a certain percentage of all coins struck for circulation at that facility to the Assay Commission in Philadelphia every month. Mint records indicate the San Francisco Mint only struck half dollars, gold dollars, and double eagles for circulation in May of 1870. According to a Wells Fargo receipt dated June 7, 1870, a total of 34 double eagles, one gold dollar, and eight half dollars were sent to the Assay Commission to fulfill the assay requirements. However, Chief Coiner J.B. Harmstead may have decided to also strike one extra specimen of the half dime, quarter, silver dollar, and three dollar gold piece when he struck the cornerstone coins to cover possible assay obligations. He may have believed he was obligated to send at least one example of each denomination struck to the Assay Commission, even for a minuscule one-piece production run. Also, he may not have known that no more coins of these denominations would be struck, and a single assay coin would be enough to meet the requirements if a small mintage was produced late in the month. It is worth noting from the receipt that he only needed one gold dollar to meet the assay obligation in May, because of the small mintage of that denomination.

Of course, no coins of these denominations were ever issued for circulation, and he may have adjusted his thinking on the assay coins accordingly. There would be little to gain from testing and confirming the value of coins that would never be used in commerce. In the end, he must have concluded there was no need to submit the coins for testing, and we know from the receipt that none were sent. Respected researcher David McCarthy notes:

"It is imaginable that they struck them based upon the assumption that they would have to send the coins to the Assay Commission eventually, then didn't have to send them, because no examples were ever officially released."

When the extra assay coins were not needed, it seems likely that Harmstead decided to purchase the extra 1870-S three dollar piece as a keepsake, as that coin remained with him, or his family, for many years. He could have acquired it simply by exchanging an equivalent sum in gold coinage for the piece. He may also have saved the 1870-S half dime, in a similar manner, but that coin might have been preserved by another Mint official, as there is no definitive link to Harmstead. It seems unlikely that anyone saved the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter as a memento, as no example of that issue has ever surfaced. Any unneeded assay coins that were not saved in this fashion were probably melted for recoinage. There is no documentary evidence to confirm any of the theories about the origin of the "duplicate" coins, but this theory seems to follow accepted Mint procedure more closely than the others and coincides well with Harmstead's sterling reputation.

Early History of the Present Coin

The first mention of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece in the numismatic press occurred in 1907, when H.T Van Camp advertised the coin in the April issue of *The Numismatist*:

"To gold collectors: Here is a coin all alone by itself. \$3 gold S mint, 1870. Never in circulation - never before on the market. With the coin is an interesting little history by the coiner who made it."

The "little history" of the coin was given in greater detail when the coin made its first auction appearance in lot 1160 of the William H. Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911). Elder noted that the coin was accompanied by an "indisputable certificate of its genuineness," as it was wrapped in a piece of yellow paper with the following notation:

"This Three Dollar piece is a duplicate of the one under the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint and the only one in existence. J.B. Harmstead."



1870 SAN FRANCISCO THREE DOLLARS!
1160 1870. San Francisco. General types identical to preceding, but the mint mark is smaller and narrower than usual. Over the wreath on reverse appear two or three minute scratches, which are hardly noticeable to the ordinary eye. The piece evidently has at one time had a loop attached. The milling appears regular.
A reserve price of \$1,000 is placed upon this lot.

Facts Regarding The Coin.

Accompanying this coin is the indisputable certificate of its genuineness, written in ink on a piece of yellow paper by the coiner of the San Francisco Mint in 1870, Mr. J. B. Harmstead, which reads as follows:

"This Three Dollar piece is a duplicate of one under the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint and the only one in existence. J. B. Harmstead."

The coin came from the family of Mr. Harmstead, wrapped in the above note.

Newspaper clippings state that in 1870, when the cornerstone of the new San Francisco Mint was laid, one specimen of each variety of the coins of the United States was placed in the cornerstone.

Under date of May 22nd, 1907, Mr. Dan Cole, the present coiner at the San Francisco Mint, wrote as follows:

"The new mint building at our present location, 5th and Mission Streets, was commenced in 1870 and was completed in 1874, and Mr. J. B. Harmstead was then coiner."

This letter also accompanies the coin.

Several of the greatest numismatists in the United States who have given the coin careful examination, say the piece is authentic and official, basing their decisions more on its general appearance and workmanship than on any written certificate or letter.

Undoubtedly this is the most remarkable gold coin of the regular series, and is, naturally, the only one which will ever be offered at public or private sale.

Elder also stated that the coin originated with Harmstead's family. Harmstead must have written the note before his death on July 22, 1889.

Oliver and Kelly have made several attempts to trace the coin's history from the time of its striking until it appeared in H.T Van Camp's ad in 1907. At first, they believed the coin had been presented to his married niece, Georgine Marcus (formerly Harmstead), because of an article in the November 3, 1907 edition of the *Washington Post*. The article mentioned the appearance of the coin in Van Camp's possession earlier in the year and said the coin and the note had been sent to Harmstead's niece.

Further genealogical research, including an examination of Harmstead's will, suggested another provenance for the coin. In their January 2020 article in *The Numismatist*, Oliver and Kelly postulate that Harmstead had the coin mounted in a necklace for his wife, Francis. She later had a debilitating stroke and went to live with her oldest married daughter, Sarah Fay (formerly Harmstead) in Portland, Oregon. Joseph Harmstead also went to live with Sarah and her husband, Charles Luther Fay, after he retired from the Mint. When Francis died in 1885, Joseph gave the necklace to Sarah. Charles Luther Fay inherited the necklace when Sarah died in 1903. He was an insurance agent by trade and he later moved to Oxford, Maine, where he died in 1906. His son, Charles Ralph Fay, apparently inherited the necklace at that point. Charles Ralph Fay lived in New York City, and he may have known H.T. Van Camp through his father, as Van Camp was also an insurance agent. It is likely that Van Camp was acting as an agent for Charles Ralph Fay when he advertised the coin in *The Numismatist* in 1907, as William Woodin later claimed he purchased the coin from Harmstead's family. We know that Woodin purchased the coin, which had been removed from the necklace, sometime before 1909, as an entry in the May 1909 issue of *The Numismatist* described Woodin's collection and specifically mentioned the coin:

"Mr. Woodin possesses the great 1870-S \$3 rarity of which two specimens were struck. One of these was placed in the cornerstone of a government building in San Francisco, and the other, through the family of the coiner, finally came into Mr. Woodin's possession."

The History of the Coin After 1907

The provenance of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece is well-documented after Woodin obtained the coin from Van Camp. Woodin, a wealthy industrialist who would become Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Roosevelt, sold the bulk of his gold collection through New York coin dealer Thomas Elder in March of 1911. Elder described the coin in a lengthy full-page description as lot 1160 in the catalog. The lot was plated and had a reserve of \$1,000. The coin realized \$1,450, to S.H. Chapman, a staggering price for any coin at the time.

Chapman was either acting as an agent for Baltimore collector Waldo Newcomer, or sold the coin to him shortly after the sale. Newcomer's inventory of his collection listed the 1870-S as number 1087 and valued it at \$2,000. Newcomer sold most of his U.S. federal collection privately through Fort Worth coin dealer B. Max Mehl, circa 1931. Mehl originally intended to sell the collection at auction and advertised it in *The Numismatist* in the March, 1932 issue. The 1870-S was pictured on the Newcomer plates Mehl had made to document the collection. Unfortunately, Mehl later decided to sell the collection privately, with much of the U.S. gold going to "Colonel" E.H.R. Green. Green held on to his fabulous collection, including the 1870-S, until his death in 1936.

Much of Green's estate was handled by St. Louis coin dealer B.G. Johnson, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece. Several prominent coin dealers, including Art Kagan and Abe Kosoff offered the coin on consignment to super collector Louis Eliasberg, Sr. in the 1944-1945 time frame, but Eliasberg consistently passed because he thought the price was too high. On September 11, 1945, Ted and Carl Brandts (the Celina Coin Company) purchased the coin from B.G. Johnson for \$7,000. The Brandts advertised the 1870-S in *The Numismatist* in December 1945.

Louis E. Eliasberg was a Baltimore financier who formed the only complete collection of U.S. federal coins by date, mintmark, and major variety. Although he had resisted purchasing the 1870-S earlier, his collecting philosophy had changed by 1946, as he was closer to completing his collection and was willing to stretch for the few coins he still needed. With Stack's acting as agent, he purchased the 1870-S from the Celina Coin Company in January 1946, for the record price of \$11,550.

Eliasberg retained his collection until his death in 1976. His coins were exhibited at the Philadelphia Mint in the Bicentennial celebrations that year. His estate offered the U.S. gold portion of the collection in a blockbuster auction conducted by Bowers and Ruddy in October 1982. The 1870-S was featured in lot 296 of the catalog and realized a stupendous price of \$687,500, to Stack's, acting as agent for Dallas collector Harry W. Bass, Jr. At the time, this was a record price realized for any U.S. federal coin (the ultra-rare 1822 half eagle in the same sale realized the same amount). The 1870-S three dollar gold piece has not been publicly offered since.

Like many owners of the 1870-S, Harry Bass retained the coin, along with the rest of his collection, until his death. He served as President of the American Numismatic Society and formed a comprehensive numismatic library to study his collection. He was influential in making the ANS Library available online. He exhibited his collection at the Coinage of the Americas Conference, on November 4-5, 1989. After his passing in 1998, much of the collection was sold in a series of important auctions through Bowers and Merena. However, the most important portions of the collection were retained in the Harry Bass Core Collection, which was owned by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation, a charitable organization that supports other organizations in the areas of education, human services, science and research, and arts and culture. The Core Collection was exhibited at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, at ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs from 2001-2022. Recently, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation has decided to deaccession the collection, to better serve the charitable causes they support, resulting in this fantastic opportunity for collectors to obtain many coins that would otherwise never be available, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece.

Physical Description

This handsome SP50 example shows only light wear on the strongly impressed design elements, with much interior detail remaining intact on Liberty's curls and the ribbon knot. The date is positioned low, with the ribbon bow tip to the right of the 7 in the date. The tall, thin S mintmark, which was hand-engraved into the die, is unlike any other mintmark in the series. Despite an attractive overall presentation, the present coin has a few technical problems that must be acknowledged. The medium yellow-gold surfaces are lightly polished, with a slightly pebbled texture. The coin was evidently mounted in a jewelry setting at one time, as indicated by some slight damage to the obverse rim at 6 o'clock. The numerals 893 are lightly scratched above the wreath on the reverse. Oliver and Kelly note this may represent the fineness of the Feather River gold deposit the coin was struck from. This might be something Harmstead would think worth noting, if he did initially strike this piece for assay purposes.

Of course, as the only available example of this landmark rarity, the technical grade of this coin is of only secondary importance. In all of numismatic history, only four collectors have ever succeeded in compiling a complete collection of three dollar gold pieces (William H. Woodin, Waldo Newcomer, Louis Eliasberg, and Harry Bass). To borrow a quote from George Clooney, "More people have walked on the moon!" This coin is absolutely essential for the completion of that daunting quest. Only one numismatist, Louis Eliasberg, has ever managed to complete a collection of U.S. federal coins. The iron-willed collector that tries to duplicate that astounding feat will find no adequate replacement for this remarkable coin once it crosses the auction block. This coin has been off the market for 40 years, and it would be foolish to think it will become available again during the collecting life of anyone reading this description. This lot truly represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The 1870-S three dollar gold piece is listed among the 100 Greatest U.S. Coins. This coin is pictured on PCGS CoinFacts. Population: 1 in 50, 0 finer (11/22).

Ex: San Francisco Mint Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead; possibly Francis Harmstead (his wife, mounted in a necklace, per Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly); Sarah Fay (Francis' oldest daughter, on her mother's death in 1885); Charles Luther Fay (Sarah's husband, on her death in 1903); Charles Ralph Fay (Charles Luther's son, on his father's death in 1906); Harry Terry Van Camp, advertised in *The Numismatist* in April 1907; private treaty transaction to William H. Woodin; Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911), lot 1160, realized \$1,450; S.H. Chapman; Waldo C. Newcomer, inventory number 1087, at \$2,000; B. Max Mehl in 1931; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; Green Estate (1936); St. Louis coin dealer B.G. Johnson; offered on consignment on July 5, 1944 by Hollinbeck Coin Company (Art Kagan) to Louis E. Eliasberg for \$8,500, but Eliasberg passed; on consignment to Abe Kosoff in 1945, offered to Eliasberg again, but passed again; Celina Coin Company (Ted and Carl Brandts), purchased from B.G. Johnson on September 11, 1945, for \$7,000, paid in two installments (per Saul Teichman), advertised in the December 1945 issue of *The Numismatist*; sold to Stack's in January 1946, as agent for Eliasberg, who paid \$11,550; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; Eliasberg Estate (1976-1982); United States Gold Coin Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 296, realized \$687,500 to Stack's, acting as agent for the following; Harry W. Bass, Jr. (HBRF Inventory #18018); Harry Bass Core Collection (HBCC-4024).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 25MT, PCGS# 7992

PROOF THREE DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

1865 Three Dollar Gold Restrike, PR65 Cameo Excessively Rare JD-2 Restrike c. 1869 or 1870



9014 1865 Restrike, JD-2, R.8, PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Once mistakenly thought to be a pattern and formerly listed as Judd-440, this enigmatic Mint restrike has intrigued collectors since the 1870s. The only two known specimens were believed to be included with the fabled 1865 With Motto sets first sold in 1870. Only two examples of the rare JD-2 die marriage are confirmed, and they are clearly restrikes, utilizing an obverse die that matches a three dollar obverse first seen in 1869, with die lines at LIB of LIBERTY and distinctive die polish lines at Liberty's neck. Filled letters at E of UNITED, the first S in STATES, and at the tops of the A's and R confirm the obverse die.

The 1865 restrike JR-2 proofs cannot be confused with the "original" 1865 JR-1 proofs, since the date is far left and angles upward at the right. Original 1865 proofs employ an obverse from 1864. John Dannreuther's 2018 reference, *United States Proof Coins Volume IV, Part One*, thoroughly discusses the restrike issue, and the present coin in particular. He notes:

"The superb gem Restrike Proof in the Harry Bass Core Collection was described as a Restrike by Dr. J. Hewitt Judd. The Bass coin is from the Judd Collection that later became part of the fabulous gold pattern collection of John Wilkison, Sr. that was sold in 1973. William H. Woodin and F.C.C. Boyd previously owned this exact same rarity, which is the plate coin under Judd 440 in that pattern reference."

Dannreuther further notes the Woodin and Boyd connection to the Bass Core Collection coin is possibly uncertain, although he confirms each of those two individuals indeed owned an 1865 restrike proof. What is absolutely certain, though, is that Harry Bass had a special interest in this coin — a pristine Gem proof, with frosted devices surrounded by watery-mirrored fields and exquisite honey-gold coloration. Bass described the strike as sharp, with "ghosting around the head" and the date "markedly canted up to right." The 186 is weaker than 5, with rough surfaces on the numerals 186. Heritage sold the other 1865 three dollar restrike proof (the former Farouk example) in 1999, an event soon to be eclipsed when this exceptional Harry Bass Core Collection coin is called.

Roster of 1865 Restrike Proof Three Dollar Gold Pieces (JD-2)

1. PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC. William H. Woodin; F.C.C. Boyd; Dr. Hewitt Judd; Dr. John Wilkison, Sr.; Tennessee Coin Exchange as brokers for Dr. Wilkison; Julian Leidman and Michael Brownlee as part of the purchase of the gold patterns of Dr. Wilkison; sold as a collection to Paramount Coin Company; privately sold on August 3, 1979; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry Bass Core Collection (HBCC-4018). **The present coin.**

2. Proof. King Farouk; Farouk:324; ANA National Money Sale (Heritage, 3/11-12/1999), lot 5701, \$14,950; Kagin's.

Additional Appearance

PCGS PR63 Deep Cameo. Likely the Farouk-Heritage-Kagin's coin, as only two examples are believed to exist.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 45292 Base PCGS# 88028

1869 Three Dollar, PR65 Deep Cameo
Only 25 Proofs Struck, 10 Traced
Second on the Condition Census



9015 1869 PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. JD-1, High R.6. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Only 25 examples of the 1869 three dollar were struck in proof format, with those coins delivered to the coiner on February 19. Of that mintage, John Dannreuther estimates that 12 to 14 pieces survive. However, Ron Guth of Numismatic Detective Agency, who provided the roster below, has only been able to trace 10 distinct representatives.

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection example is the second finest 1869 proof three dollar known. It exhibits spectacular Deep Cameo contrast with warm orange-gold color and thickly frosted relief elements surrounded by mirrorlike fields. Population: 2 in 65 Deep Cameo, 0 finer. CAC: 1 in 65, 0 finer (11/22).

Roster of Proof 1869 Three Dollar Gold Pieces

1. PR66★ Cameo NGC. Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 7/2003), lot 581, \$46,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 3477, \$69,000.

2. PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. Abe Kosoff, sold privately on 7/23/1973; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 4022). **The present coin.**

3. PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. Heathrow Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 3/2006), lot 1517, \$55,200; Pre-Long Beach (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2007), lot 2223, \$74,750; Pre-Long Beach (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2009), lot 1415, \$57,500; Pre-Long Beach (Goldberg Auctions, 9/2011), lot 1992, \$52,900.

4. PR65 Cameo PCGS. Classics Sale (American Numismatic Rarities, 9/2003), lot 485, \$50,600; Tom Bender Collection (PCGS Set Registry).

5. PR65 PCGS. Orlando Sale (Stack's, 1/2007), lot 1226, \$57,500.

6. PR65 PCGS. "Detroit" (Collection or location?), sold privately in 8/1894; John M. Clapp Collection; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 294, \$14,300; Ed Trompeter Collection (Superior, 2/1992), lot 111, \$20,900; Americana Sale (Stack's, 1/2004), lot 3080, \$43,125.

7. PR65 PCGS. Franklinton Collection, Part II (Stack's, 1/2008), lot 876, \$63,250.

8. PR65 Cameo PCGS. Grant Pierce & Sons Collection (Stack's, 5/1965), lot 1256; Charles Jay Collection (Stack's, 10/1967), lot 281; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/1998), lot 7714, \$25,300.

9. PR64+ Deep Cameo Uncertified (grade per John Dannreuther). Acquired directly from the Mint on 3/6/1869 as part of a complete proof set of the year; National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

10. PR64 Cameo PCGS. Hebbard Collection (Harlan P. Smith / Bangs & Co., 4/1883), lot 381 (part of a complete 1869 gold proof set, gold dollar through double eagle); T. Harrison Garrett Collection; Robert Garrett Collection; John Work Garrett Collection; (Stack's, 3/1976), lot 431; Huberman Collection (Stack's Bowers, 4/2022), lot 3101, \$57,600.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 28A9, PCGS# 98032

PROOF FOUR DOLLAR GOLD PIECE

1879 Flowing Hair Stella, PR67
Judd-1635, Key United States Type
Clean Honey-Gold Surfaces, Bold Strike



9016 1879 Flowing Hair, Judd-1635, Pollock-1833, JD-1, R.3, PR67 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. In such a monumental collection of both United States patterns and gold coinage, it should come as no surprise that the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection example of the 1879 Flowing Hair stella is as pristine and attractive as it is. Indeed, this Superb Gem is tied for finest in the non-Cameo category at both PCGS and NGC, with a single Plus-graded PR67 at PCGS perhaps slightly edging it out.

The 1879 Flowing Hair stella has a way of blending seamlessly into sets of both regular and pattern coinage. Nestled within the pages of the *Guide Book* between circulating three dollar and five dollar pieces, this issue is regularly collected as a key United States type despite never having been adopted or authorized commercially. The Charles Barber design, which features a reverse based on the specifications of the denomination's originator, Dr. William Wheeler Hubbell, was only struck to the extent of about 425 coins for the purposes of congressional approval. Ultimately, the proposal never got off the ground, but the number of 1879 Flowing Hair stellas produced contributes to their collectibility today.

Although this outstanding rarity does not carry a formal Cameo designation, contrast between the fields and devices is unmistakable. Honey-gold surfaces appear virtually unmarked. There is a tiny alloy spot right of the date and a few more appear on the lower reverse rim. The borders all around each side are squared off and razor-sharp, and central design definition is much stronger than usual. The striations over the centers are about as faint as we have seen. Well-worth a premium bid. Population: 3 in 67 (1 in 67+), 0 finer in non-Cameo (11/22).

Ex: Purchased from John Rowe and Mike Brownlee (11/2/1970).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

NGC ID# 28AZ, PCGS# 8057

EARLY HALF EAGLES

1795 Small Eagle Five Dollar, MS64
Single Finest BD-4 Example by Two Points
Among the First Gold Coins Struck



9017 1795 Small Eagle, BD-4, R.5, MS64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/a. The gold half eagles coined in 1795 represent the first of their kind ever manufactured for circulation by the United States Mint. The five dollar denomination was authorized by the passage of the Mint Act of April 2, 1792, but it was not until three years later, after the bonds that were required to be posted by the three top Mint officials were reduced, that production got underway.

The first delivery of official U.S. gold coins consisted of 744 half eagles dated 1795 and took place on July 31 of that year, according to Warrant 1. Over the course of the year, Mint records report 8,707 five dollar gold pieces struck, although it is possible that some coins minted early in 1796 were dated 1795. John Dannreuther proposes that the total output of 1795-dated pieces could be as high as 12,106 coins, all of which feature a Small Eagle reverse. The 1795 Large Eagle fives were all struck in 1797.

There are a dozen die marriages known for the 1795 Small Eagle five. In the past, researchers have thought there may be as many as 14 or 16, but they have been consolidated. Much of the modern work on the 1795 die varieties was done by Harry Bass based on his personal collection of more than 20 examples of the issue, and that work made its way into Dannreuther's outstanding *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* reference from 2006. This is an example of BD-4, identified by the placement of star 1 relative to the curl, the two inner points on star 13 positioned toward Liberty's bust, and the middle of the eagle's wreath centered below the O in OF. Obverse 2 is in its third use here, having previously been employed in the production of BD-2 and BD-3 half eagles, while this is the only use of Reverse C. Presumably, both dies failed at some point in the coining of BD-4 fives, though no terminal die state examples have been identified. Both Bass and Dannreuther note that this particular representative is in the second known state (d/a) with lapping and star 1 no longer touching the lowest hair curl. However, in this cataloger's opinion it better matches state c/a. All examples of BD-4 have a crack from the rim to star 12.

Dannreuther suggests that the BD-4 variety constituted between 1,000 to 1,500 examples of the entire mintage. About 60 to 75 pieces are thought to survive, making this one of the more accessible die combinations. It is not seen, however, with anywhere close to the same degree of frequency as BD-3 — the most collectible variety among 1795 Small Eagle fives — of which perhaps as many as 225 examples are known.

The Harry W. Bass Core Collection coin is the single finest BD-4 representative extant by two full grade points. Bass purchased the coin in 1973 from James (Jimmy) Hayes, a prominent collector who would go on to serve as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Each side radiates frosty mint luster from orange-gold surfaces. The vibrant frost is most apparent around the devices. Light chatter occurs in the fields and the most noticeable marks are a couple of ticks on the eagle's breast, which is slightly incomplete. Definition is bold elsewhere.

Prior to this sale, the finest 1795 BD-4 half eagles in private hands were a trio of MS62 coins. This near-Gem now stands atop that formidable grouping, and by a considerable margin. We are thrilled to offer collectors this exciting new opportunity to advance their own sets, and we look forward to setting a new world record price for the variety along the way.

A Roster of Significant 1795 Small Eagle BD-4 Half Eagles by Ron Guth (Numismatic Detective Agency)

1. MS64 PCGS. James A. Hayes Collection, sold privately on 1/10/1973; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3032). **The present coin.**

2. MS62 PCGS. Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2002), lot 6946, \$48,300.

3. MS62 NGC. Old Colony Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 12/2005), lot 1541, \$46,000; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2010), lot 3466, \$74,750; ANA Signature (Stack's Bowers, 8/2011), lot 7650, not sold.

4. NGC MS62. Kennywood Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 1/2005), lot 899, \$69,000.

5. MS61 PCGS. Dr. James Olsen Collection (Heritage, 1/2013), lot 5860, \$70,500; Dallas Signature (Heritage, 12/2021), lot 3389, \$90,000.

6. MS61 NGC. Baltimore Signature (Heritage, 7/2008), lot 1935, \$80,500; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2010), lot 2235, \$38,813; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2022), lot 4034, \$87,000.

7. MS60 NGC CAC. Big Sky Collection (Heritage, 4/2015), lot 5303, \$64,625.

8. AU58 NGC. Oliver Collection (Heritage, 8/2011), lot 7497, \$57,500; Buffalo Bayou Collection, Part II / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2022), lot NGC, \$96,000.

9. AU55 PCGS. Frog Run Farm Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 11/2004), lot 1780, \$36,800.

10. AU55 NGC. Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 9/2008), lot 3574, \$43,125; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 2/2009), lot 2657, \$37,375; Los Angeles Signature (Heritage, 7/2009), lot 1247, \$40,250; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 9/2015), lot 4166, \$39,950.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 25ND, PCGS# 519853 Base PCGS# 8066

1795 Small Eagle Five Dollar, BD-5, AU58
About 10 Coins Known, S Over D Variety
First Public Appearance Since 1968



9018 1795 Small Eagle, BD-5, R.7 AU58 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/a. Diagnostics for the variety include doubling on the tip of the 5 in the date, the tip of the 1 touching the lowest curl, and the final S in STATES punched over a clear underlying D. BD-5 is one of the rarest of 12 known die marriages for the first-year 1795 Small Eagle five dollar gold issue, which claims a mintage of only 8,707 coins. John Dannreuther estimates that eight to 12 pieces exist from a possible production of 300 to 600 coins from this die combination, tying it with BD-7. Only BD-11 is rarer with three to five coins known.

Although the *Guide Book* notes that “One variety has the final S in STATES punched over an erroneous D,” BD-5 actually shares a reverse with BD-6. That variety is much more collectible with 60 to 80 pieces extant. The reverse die used for both BD-5 and BD-6 shows other signs of carelessness, including raised spikes from the dentils around the borders. That characteristic has led some to believe the die cutter was drunk at the time this reverse was produced. There is no evidence that the alcohol theory is true — the work may simply have been accomplished in haste — but it certainly adds to the appeal.

The Harry Bass Core Collection coin is a partly lustrous near-Mint example that Bass himself described as having “lustre evident at date, stars, and Liberty, and throughout the legend on reverse.” Design definition is sharp at the centers, as it is around the borders. Yellow-gold surfaces exhibit scattered abrasions and a coppery alloy spot under the eagle’s left (facing) wing.

Ex: ANA Sale (*Able Kosoff*, 8/1968), lot 933.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 519854 Base PCGS# 8066

1795 Small Eagle Five Dollar, MS62
S Over D, BD-6 Variety
Condition Census Quality



9019 1795 Small Eagle, S Over D, BD-6, R.5 MS62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. The tip of the 5 overlaps Liberty's drapery, distinguishing this BD-6 die marriage from BD-5, which shares the distinctive reverse. The second S in STATES is punched over an errant D, which remains perfectly clear. So, too, are the spike-like die gouges from the dentils. Writes John Dannreuther in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006):

"This curious reverse die, as noted under the BD-5 variety, possibly was the result of either alcohol or a late night party, as the die sinker made numerous slips while preparing this reverse. The spikes from the dentils are also seen on this obverse die, as well as the previous obverse die, although they are not as plentiful as seen on the reverse."

According to Dannreuther, about 60 to 80 examples of the BD-6 die marriage are known from an estimated mintage of 1,000 to 1,500 pieces. That makes it considerably more collectible than its BD-5 S Over D counterpart, though this variety remains scarce in absolute terms. It is also a condition rarity. At PCGS, only three coins designated as S Over D are graded higher, including two in MS63 and one in MS63+.

This particular MS62 coin showcases lovely yellow and orange-gold surface color along with strong definition throughout, typical of high-grade 1795 half eagles. Superficial ticks and hairlines fail to diminish field reflectivity and overall eye appeal. Certainly one of the finest S Over D half eagles extant and worthy of a premium bid as such. Population: 1 in 62, 1 finer (10/22).

Ex: Purchased from Julian Leidman (8/28/1973).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 25ND, PCGS# 519855 Base PCGS# 8066

1796/5 BD-1 Half Eagle, MS61
Guide Book Overdate
About 100 Coins Extant



9020 1796/5 BD-1, High R.4, MS61 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/c. The official reported mintage of 1796 half eagles, all of which feature the 6 punched over an underlying 5, stands at 6,196 coins. However, writing in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006), John Dannreuther suggests that only 1,057 to 2,000 pieces were actually struck and provides the following commentary on the issue's survivorship:

"Although the mintage figures reported for the year 1796 undoubtedly contained coins dated 1795, there may be as many as 100 extant for this year."

The lower range for the surviving population is about 75 coins. PCGS reports 33 problem-free grading events for the issue. All but six of them are in circulated grades, namely XF45 through AU58. In Uncirculated, PCGS lists the Harry Bass Core Collection coin in MS61, offered here, another MS61, two in MS62, one in MS62+ (ex: Pogue), and one in MS63 (10/22). There may very well be some duplication within those figures, but, to be sure, the 1796/5 half eagle is decidedly rare as it is in Mint State.

This impressive, well-pedigree representative showcases orange-gold color with faint green-gold accents. Minor strike softness is limited to the centers, while the outer stars, date, and legends on the reverse exhibit bold detail. That side also shows as-made adjustment marks around the rim and over the eagle's breast. Scattered post-production marks and hairlines are also present on each side, and the reverse has a small pinscratch through the final A in AMERICA. Struck-through lint marks also occur on that side.

Ex: Abner Kreisberg Sale (9/1971), lot 1014.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

NGC ID# BFWU, PCGS# 519862 Base PCGS# 8067



1797 BD-2 Half Eagle, AU58
The Rarest 1797 Small Eagle Variety
The Second Finest of Seven Known



9021 1797 Small Eagle, 15 Stars, BD-2, R.7 AU58 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/d. A light vertical die crack behind the lower curls extends from the lowest curl to the edge between star 1 and the date, as John Dannreuther describes. Another long die crack from the border through the cap and hair behind Liberty's ear, angles down the neck, and reaches the drapery. Most of the border dentils are thin and spaced apart, suggesting the die may have been lapped. Harry Bass wrote in his notes: "Long crack. Thin denticles due to lapping." This is the only use of the obverse die.

The reverse, now in its second use after 1797 BD-1, has a long, heavy die crack through the I of UNITED, the field, two feathers of the left wing, the eagle's body, and the lower feathers of the right wing. That crack is very heavy at the I of UNITED, and reaches the right border near the wing tip. A branch crack extends up through the eagle's breast feathers to the neck and head, the left branch of the wreath, and the E in STATES to the border at 12 o'clock. Another branch crack extends downward through the eagle's leg and lower two leaves of the olive branch to the border at 5:30.

Mint records show the production of 8,707 half eagles in 1795, 6,196 in 1796, and 3,609 in 1797 for the Small Eagle design. The small mintage of 1798 Small Eagle coins is unknown as they were reported along with the 1798 Heraldic Eagle pieces. Annual mintage figures have no relationship to the number of pieces minted with each coinage date. We are certain that many 1795 Small Eagle fives were struck in 1796, for example. In fact, it is possible that the entire reported production for 1795 and 1796 was dated 1795, and that the 1796 and 1797 half eagles were all coined in the latter year. Certification service totals for each date also fit nicely with the scenario that the total reported mintage for 1795 and 1796 was dated 1795.

The entire series of Small Eagle half eagles dated 1795 to 1798 are highly collectible, and only the 1795 can remotely be called common, and then only in the context of the Small Eagle type. There are 18 varieties known, including 12 of 1795, one of 1796, four of 1797, and one of 1798. Dannreuther estimates a population in the vicinity of 500 to 600 half eagles dated 1795, 80 to 100 dated 1796, 40 to 50 dated 1797, and seven or eight of 1798.

Survival estimates for this important variety seem to be a moving target. In his late 1960s monograph, Walter Breen suggested a rating of nearly R.8. The 1979 Garrett catalog notes: "David Akers estimates that probably fewer than 20 examples exist in all grades." The entry in the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge* assigned an R.7 rating. John Dannreuther writes: "This is a very rare variety with a dozen or so known, although some have estimated as high as 20 or more extant." Ronald Guth's roster, presented below, agrees nicely with the Bass *Sylloge*, and shows just seven examples of the variety that are known today.

Light high-point rub is evident on this piece that was conservatively graded XF40 in the Garrett catalog. Splashes of coppery-orange toning appear on the lightly abraded yellow-gold surfaces of the obverse and reverse. A few small surface depressions on the lower obverse remain from the planchet when this piece was struck. Slight central weakness is evident on this piece as on other Small Eagle half eagles. PCGS population for both 1797 15 Stars varieties, BD-1 and BD-2: 3 in 58, 1 finer (11/22).

Roster of Seven Known Examples

1. **MS60 NGC.** Amon G. Carter, Jr. Family Collection (Stack's, 1/1984), lot 637, \$12,100; Pre-Long Beach Elite Auction (Superior, 9/2003), lot 2834, \$100,625; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2010), lot 3471, \$218,500; Baltimore Rarities Night (Stack's Bowers, 11/2021), lot 4104, \$168,000. This coin was previously certified AU58 PCGS.

2. **AU58 PCGS.** William J. Jenks Collection (John W. Haseltine, 6/1883), lot 329, \$56; Garrett Collection, Part I (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1979), lot 435, \$20,000; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3046). **The present coin.**

3. **AU53 PCGS.** George H. Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2337; later, Rare Coin Auction, Part I (Superior, 2/1973), lot 328; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 720, \$69,000.

4. **AU53 NGC.** James A. Stack, Sr. Collection (Stack's, 10/1994), lot 1034, \$23,100; Chicago ANA (Stack's Bowers, 8/2013), lot 4471, \$129,250; Baltimore Rarities Night (Stack's Bowers, 11/2021), lot 4105, \$117,000.

5. **AU53 NGC.** Robert P. Hilt, II Collection; Liberty USA Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2015), lot 4279, \$129,250.

6. **AU Details, Repaired NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2013), lot 5863, \$23,735.

7. **XF estimated grade.** "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; Eric P. Newman and B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.); Clifford T. Weihman Collection; Josiah K. Lilly Collection, donated intact in 1968 by Lilly's estate to the National Numismatic Collection in exchange for a \$5.5 million tax credit; National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (ID #68.159.156). Gilliland: 32.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# BFWW, PCGS# 519864 Base PCGS# 8069

1798 BD-4 Half Eagle, MS66
The Finest Certified of Any Variety



9022 1798 Large Eagle, Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse, BD-4, High R.4, MS66 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State d/e, the latest die state recorded for the variety. Liberty's hair curls show evidence of lapping. The obverse is lightly cracked through the base of the date, actually composed of more than one individual crack, although that is only apparent due to the incredible preservation of this piece. A small raised lump is seen just right of the 9. A light die crack (or cracks) joins the Y of LIBERTY and all the stars on the right, and another faint crack connects the tops of IBE in LIBERTY. Now it gets fun: A heavy die crack joins the tops of RTY, reaching the border over the left serif of the R and extends right of Y to the border over star 9. A branch crack joins the border over the right side of the T, and the entire area over RT has raised slightly to form a retained cud.

The lapped reverse die is exciting for the die state enthusiast. A die crack begins at cloud 6 and joins reverse stars 5 and 10, crossing the scroll at the second U in UNUM, continuing through the eagle's breast to the shield before disappearing due to a weak central strike. Die breakage is observed at the base of TE in UNITED. A delicate crack through the top of that T joins the border over the left arm of that letter and over the left serif of the adjacent E. A few trivial die chips are noted at the E of AMERICA. For most observers, the eye is immediately drawn to the top of the reverse. Large rim breaks join the tops of ES in STATES and the top left of the O in OF. The entire area over TATES O shows numerous small cracks and die chips that are nearly impossible to describe individually. All of those die state features are seen to some extent on all known examples of the 1798 BD-4 half eagle, and those anomalies provide immediate attribution.

PCGS has certified 197 half eagles of all seven 1798 Heraldic Eagle varieties and NGC adds 186 more to the total population. From that total of 383 grading events, just one coin ... this coin ... is graded MS66 and, of course, none are finer (11/22). Simply stated, this is the finest existing 1798 half eagle. Following this coin are a single MS65 PCGS, one MS64+ PCGS, two MS64 NGC coins, and less than a dozen examples that are certified MS63.

Although weakly defined in the central obverse and reverse, this piece is extraordinary. Both sides are highly lustrous with brilliant yellow mint frost. A few splashes of light orange toning will aid identification. The surfaces of this Premium Gem are pristine and essentially problem-free. The collector seeking a high grade 1798 half eagle has little opportunity, and the collector seeking the finest quality needs this coin.

Roster of Significant Examples

- 1. MS66 PCGS.** Ron Gillio, sold privately on 8/27/1973; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3055). **The present coin.**
- 2. MS64 NGC CAC.** Chicago Signature (Heritage, 8/2011), lot 7507, \$155,250; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 6/2018), lot 4125, \$144,000.
- 3. MS63 PCGS.** James A. Stack, Sr. Collection (Stack's, 10/1994), lot 1037, \$15,400; Drew St. John Sale (American Numismatic Rarities, 6/2005), lot 504, \$50,000; Old West and Franklinton Collections (American Numismatic Rarities, 8/2006), lot 1363, \$48,000.
- 4. MS63 PCGS.** Craig N. Smith and George William Youngman Collections (Bowers and Merena, 3/2003), lot 2259, not sold; Baltimore ANA (Bowers and Merena, 7/2003), lot 2639, \$23,000; McCoy Family Collection (Heritage, 1/2018), lot 5015, \$56,400; D.L. Hansen Collection
- 5. MS62 PCGS CAC.** Regency Auction XXII (Legend Rare Coin Auctions, 7/2017), lot 476, \$47,000.
- 6. MS62 PCGS.** Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 9/2002), lot 1340, \$18,400; Summer FUN Signature (Heritage, 7/2015), lot 3301, \$31,725; Rarities Sale (Stack's Bowers, 8/2016), lot 3241, \$30,550; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 10/2022), lot 3178, \$38,400.
- 7. MS62 PCGS.** Collections of Edgar M. Rossi and R. Sloan Wilson, M.D. (Bowers and Merena, 5/1997), lot 2223, \$1,210.
- 8. MS62 NGC.** Pre-Long Beach Coin and Currency Auction (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2006), lot 1060, \$33,350; Pre-Long Beach Coin and Currency Auction (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2007), lot 2239, not sold.
- 9. MS62 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2009), lot 4040, \$32,200; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2009), lot 2706, \$29,900.
- 10. MS61 PCGS.** Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 726, \$16,100.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 507324 Base PCGS# 8078

1798 BD-8 Half Eagle, AU58
Small 8, Attractive Copper-Red Accents



9023 1798 Large Eagle, Small 8, BD-8, R.5, AU58 PCGS. CAC.
Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. A crack runs from the reverse rim down between (STATE)S O(F) to the cloud. BD-8 is the last of eight varieties for the 1798 Large Eagle five dollar. The 8 in the date is normal relative to the 9 (Small 8), star 9 is away from the Y, and star 1 is close to Liberty's curl. John Dannreuther describes BD-8 as "scarce" and provides an estimated surviving population of only 40 to 50 coins.

This is a CAC-endorsed representative in near-Mint condition. Warm copper-red tones surround the relief elements, which are boldly struck everywhere except the extreme centers. Trivial hairlines have no effect on the appeal of this 18th century gold rarity.

Ex: Dr. Charles Ruby Collection, Part I (Superior Galleries, 2/1974), lot 1788.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 507328 Base PCGS# 8079

1799 Five Dollar, Unc Details
Small Reverse Stars, BD-4
Ex: Eliasberg



9024 1799 Small Reverse Stars, BD-4, R.7 — Scratch — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass Dannreuther Die State a/a, without clashing, lapping, or cracks. This is the first of three uses for this obverse die. The reverse features a short neck on the eagle with one of the Small Reverse Stars positioned right under the second T in STATES. BD-4 is a rare variety with 10 to 12 pieces extant. This one showcases Uncirculated definition with an identifying scratch (or scratches) across Liberty's lower curls and neck through the right field to star 12. Light yellow-gold surfaces show scattered hairlines.

Ex: Elmer S. Sears (1910); John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. (1942); Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 340.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 25NT, PCGS# 519876 Base PCGS# 8081

1799 BD-8 Half Eagle, AU53
Large Reverse Stars, Late Die State



9025 1799 Large Reverse Stars, BD-8, R.6, AU53 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b, with a bisecting crack from the rim to the L in LIBERTY and down through the 7 in the date. This 1799 half eagle variety is identified chiefly by the Large Reverse Stars slightly misaligned along the left side. BD-8 is one of nine die combinations for the year, and John Dannreuther (2006) suggests that only 22 to 30 examples survive.

Natural reddish accents appear around the raised elements of the design, contrasting with the deep golden-yellow color that dominates. Light friction and scattered marks occur over each side, but none of the abrasions are singularly distracting and the only noticeable softness occurs at the juncture of the eagle's left (facing) wing and the shield border. Endorsed by CAC for quality within the grade.

Ex: Purchased from Stanley Kesselman (7/2/1973).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519883 Base PCGS# 98081

1800 BD-4 Five Dollar, Unc Details
Blunt 1, Terminal Die State



9026 1800 BD-4, R.4 — Cleaned — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State d/c. A late die state example with a cud above NIT in UNITED. Diagnostic indicators for the BD-4 variety include star 13 away from Liberty's bust and a blundered M in AMERICA. This is an Uncirculated example of the most collectible die marriage for the year. About 125 to 175 pieces survive. Although this coin was cleaned at some point, it remains attractive with sharply struck devices and flashy, reflective surfaces.

Ex: John A. Beck Collection, Part I (Quality Sales Corporation, 1/1975), lot 339.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 25NW, PCGS# 45594 Base PCGS# 8082

1802/1 BD-6 Half Eagle, AU58
High Overdate, Four to Six Coins Known



9027 1802/1 BD-6, High R.7, AU58 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. The 1802/1 BD-6 half eagle variety claims a surviving population of four to six coins, according to John Dannreuther, who writes:

“The Bass coin is a late die state with all the above-mentioned cracks with the one above AMER(ICA) being a break; it is at the pre-cud stage, which likely formed soon after this coin was struck.”

Indeed, BD-6 is the rarest of the High Overdate variants of the 1802/1 five. The present borderline-Uncirculated survivor displays pale copper-orange tones around the devices, while the surfaces are predominantly yellow-gold. Liberty's curls and the eagle's neck feathers are strong.

Ex: ANA Sale (*Stack's*, 8/1971), lot 2112.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 519887 Base PCGS# 8083

1803/2 Capped Bust Right Five Dollar, MS62+
BD-2, About 40 to 50 Coins Survive
Flashy, Reflective Yellow-Gold Surfaces



9028 1803/2 BD-2, R.5, MS62+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/b. An early die state with only minor evidence of lapping on the reverse. The 1803/2 half eagle comprises four die varieties, of which BD-2 is the rarest. John Dannreuther estimates 40 to 50 examples survive. The T in LIBERTY is broken, and the upright of the E in STATES is over the space between two clouds.

Each side is flashy and reflective with light yellow-gold color. The stars, curls, legends, and the eagle's feathers exhibit pinpoint definition. Superficial abrasions are minor for the grade, as affirmed by the PCGS Plus designation.

Ex: Barry Stuppler; Goliad Corporation (10/30/1972).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 504949 Base PCGS# 8084

1804 Small 8 Half Eagle, MS64+
BD-2, Tied for Finest Certified
Lustrous With Red-Gold Accents



9029 1804 Small 8, BD-2, High R.4, MS64+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State d/f. Obverse cracks appear down through the L to the O and across the tops of TY in LIBERTY. Variety attribution indicators include the Small 1, Normal (formerly Small) 8, and Small 4 in the date, as well as the E in STATES centered over the space between the two clouds. BD-2 is one of seven die marriages employed in the production of 30,475 five dollar gold pieces in 1804. According to John Dannreuther's *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006), the 1804 BD-2 half eagle enjoys a surviving population of 70 to 90 coins, which actually makes it one of the more collectible variants for the year behind BD-7 and tied with BD-1, with which it shares an obverse.

The Harry Bass Core Collection coin in MS64+ ranks among the finest 1804 Small 8 five dollar gold pieces certified at PCGS, including all Small 8 die marriages. Although there is one other MS64+ submission listed in the PCGS *Population Report*, we can find no record of another Plus-graded near-Gem having been sold at auction. The only recent sale to which we can compare is the Bass Collection BD-1 coin in MS64 PCGS CAC that we sold in September 2022. That example realized \$72,000.

Vibrant mint luster illuminates the copper-red accents present around the borders and central design elements. This high-end Choice Uncirculated half eagle is largely orange-gold with razor-sharp definition (bordering on full) throughout each side. Eye appeal is fantastic, matching technical quality and befitting the coin's status atop the Condition Census.

Ex: Purchased from A-Mark Coin Company (3/16/1978).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 519892 Base PCGS# 8085

1804 BD-7 Half Eagle, MS65
Small Over Large 8 Variety
Finest for the Die Marriage



9030 1804 Small Over Large 8, BD-7, R.4, MS65 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b. This is one of three die marriages that make up the Small Over Large 8 *Guide Book* variety for the 1804 half eagle. All three variants share a single obverse die with bold repunching on the date. The reverse here is distinguished by the placement of the upright of the E in STATES over the space between two clouds. According to John Dannreuther's *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006), about 100 to 150 examples of the 1804 BD-7 half eagle survive. By contrast, only 15 to 18 examples of BD-5 and 35 to 45 examples of BD-6 are believed extant, per Dannreuther, making this the only relatively collectible die marriage for the Small Over Large 8 variety.

The PCGS *Population Report* makes clear the overall scarcity and the conditional rarity of the 1804 Small Over Large 8 half eagle. The service reports 78 total grading events. Only a single example is graded finer, but that coin is struck from the BD-5 die marriage. This is the second finest Small Over Large 8 half eagle at PCGS and the sole finest for the BD-7 variety. The highest-graded 1804 Small Over Large 8 half eagle at NGC is a single MS64 representative (10/22).

This is an unbelievably attractive Gem survivor — the second finest on the Condition Census. It features impressive vibrant luster over yellow-gold surfaces. A blush of reddish color occurs in the left obverse field and other accents appear around the devices. Strike definition is razor-sharp from rim to rim. Faint adjustment marks appear along the left obverse border and across Liberty's middle curls.

Ex: Miles Collection (*Stack's*, 10/1968), lot 335.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 519897 Base PCGS# 8086

1805 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle, MS64
BD-3, Deep Orange-Gold Color
Only One Example Finer at PCGS



9031 1805 BD-3, High R.5, MS64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/e. The positioning of star 9 relative to the Y is enough to differentiate BD-3 from the other four die marriages for the 1805 half eagle. BD-1 and BD-2 have a Perfect 1 in the date, while this variety as well as BD-4 and BD-5 have an Imperfect 1 with a broken left foot. John Dannreuther provides the following commentary for the BD-3 die pair in his must-have series reference, *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006):

“This is the only use of this obverse. A terminal state exists, although a coin might not be extant with the fatal injury. These dies likely clashed with this pairing, so that likely led to the obverse die cracking and later breaking. Probably only 35 to 45 coins still exist of this variety due to the retirement of the obverse die, although we do not know what injury caused its demise.”

Dannreuther further speculates that this die combination was responsible for the production of 2,000 to 3,000 of the 33,183 total coins reported for the year.

PCGS has certified nearly 300 1805 five dollar gold pieces, including all varieties. A fair number of them remain collectible in MS62 and MS63. However, the population falls off dramatically in near-Gem condition and a single MS65 submission is rated higher (11/22).

Writing in the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*, Dave Bowers described this Choice Uncirculated half eagle as an “outstanding example with lustrous deep orange gold surfaces and sharp design features.” We would just note the presence of additional shades of red and violet that contribute to the terrific visual appeal. Parallel striations from the draw bench appear at the central reverse where definition is ever so slightly soft.

Ex: Gaston DiBello Collection (*Stack's*, 5/1970), lot 809.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 45617 Base PCGS# 8088

1806 BD-1 Half Eagle, MS63
Pointed 6, 8x5 Stars



9032 1806 Pointed 6, 8x5 Stars, BD-1, R.4, MS63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/e, with a die crack from star 1 to the 1 in date. Six die varieties exist for the 1806 five dollar gold piece. The most available of the six is also the only one with a Knobbed 6 in the date and the obverse stars arranged 7x6. The five remaining die marriages feature a Pointed 6 and stars arranged 8x5. BD-1 is the most collectible of the five Pointed 6 variants. It is distinguished by the close placement of stars 1 and 2 to Liberty's lowest curl and by the broken feet on the Ts in STATES. Interestingly, the reverse was previously used to strike all 1805 half eagles varieties except BD-1.

John Dannreuther proposes that 100 to 150 examples of the 1806 BD-1 Capped Bust Right five exist across all grades. This Select Uncirculated survivor enjoys lustrous orange-gold surfaces with bold detail around the perimeters and just a touch of central softness on the obverse.

Ex: Purchased from Abe Kosoff (7/23/1973).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 25P7, PCGS# 45621 Base PCGS# 8090

1806 Pointed 6 Five Dollar, MS63+
BD-4, Condition Census Example
Frosty Yellow-Gold Surfaces



9033 1806 Pointed 6, 8x5 Stars, BD-4, High R.5, MS63+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a. The 1806 BD-4 variety can be quickly identified by the placement of star 1 away from Liberty's lowest curl and the Pointed 6 in the date. While the 1806 five dollar claims a total mintage of 64,093 coins, John Dannreuther proposes that only 2,000 to 3,000 of them were struck from this die pair. About 30 to 35 examples are believed extant. To be sure, the Bass coin must rank near the top of the Condition Census.

Each side of this Plus-graded Select Uncirculated half eagle retains frosty luster over light yellow-gold surfaces. Central softness is noted on both the obverse and the reverse, with the latter showing faint adjustment marks over the shield and along the right border.

Ex: ANA Sale (*Superior Galleries*, 8/1975), lot 1504.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 45624 Base PCGS# 8090

**1807 Bust Right Half Eagle, MS63+
BD-5, Rarest Variety for the Year**



9034 1807 Bust Right, BD-5, High R.6, MS63+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b. Star 9 is away from the Y in LIBERTY but close to the rim, and a faint vertical die crack runs down through the upright of the B in LIBERTY. Dannreuther writes in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties*:

“Bass owned *two* examples of this rare variety — one researcher had located only four coins! There are likely 20 or so still around, but by far, this is the toughest variety of this date.”

Strike definition is largely strong with the exception of the right-side stars and the upper right quadrant of the reverse. Lustrous red-gold surfaces exhibit minor marks in the field right of the portrait. A tiny rim bump above LI identifies this particular coin from the Bass Core Collection, which likely serves as the sole finest for the BD-5 die variety.

Ex: *Abner Kreisberg Sale* (11/1972), lot 1154.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519902 Base PCGS# 8092

**1808/7 Wide Date Half Eagle, AU58
BD-1, Only 20 to 30 Coins Known**



9035 1808/7 Wide Date, BD-1, R.6, AU58 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/c. Four die varieties exist for the 1808 half eagle. Two feature the second 8 in the date over an underlying 7, while the other two do not. The two overdate varieties, BD-1 and BD-2, are distinguished by their Wide and Close Dates, respectively. Here, for example, the digits in the date are relatively wide. Per John Dannreuther: “This variety is about five times rarer than the other overdate of this year (both employ Reverse E of 1807), and it is among the keys of this type.” He estimates that only 20 to 30 BD-1 representatives survive.

This one showcases bright wheat-gold surfaces with partial glints of luster. Strongly struck devices exhibit a trace of high-point rub, but it is extremely faint. The only mentionable marks include two thin pin scratches above the 0 in the date.

Ex: *ANA Sale* (Abe Kosoff, 8/1966), lot 1980.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 25PB, PCGS# 45636 Base PCGS# 8103

1808 BD-4 Five Dollar, MS64+
Frosty, Clean, and Razor-Sharp



9036 1808 Wide 5D, BD-4, High R.3, MS64+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/a. The wide spacing between the 5 and the D in the denomination is enough to attribute the 1808 BD-4 variety. It is one of two non-overdate variants for the year along with BD-3, which conveniently features the 5 and D spaced closely together at the lower reverse. Both BD-3 and BD-4 are considerably more collectible than their overdated BD-1 and BD-2 counterparts, with this being the most accessible variety for the year. John Dannreuther estimates that 175 to 225 pieces survive from a possible mintage of 15,000 to 30,000 coins. The 1808 half eagle claims a total production of 55,578 pieces.

The PCGS *Population Report* includes 263 problem-free grading events for the 1808 five dollar, including both non-overdate varieties. One hundred and three of those submissions are in Mint State, with MS62 being the most frequently awarded grade. This coin is one of only three MS64+ representatives certified at that service (another 17 are graded MS64). Just two Gems are finer (11/22).

Light yellow-gold surfaces radiate frosty luster over clean fields and uniformly bold relief elements. Dave Bowers described this near-Gem in 2001 as "Extremely sharply defined with outstanding satiny greenish gold lustre. The surfaces exhibit exceptional quality." Indeed, they do. Bid accordingly. Population (for the BD-4 variety): 1 in 64 (1 in 64+), 1 finer (10/22).

Ex: *Breen II Sale* (Pine Tree, 6/1975), lot 353; Stanley Kesselman (7/30/1975).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 25PA, PCGS# 507605 Base PCGS# 8102



1810 BD-2 Half Eagle, AU55+
Rare Small Date, Small 5 Variety
Only 14 Examples Traced



9037 1810 Small Date, Small 5, BD-2, R.6, AU55+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b, featuring a lengthy obverse die crack across drapery clasp. Four die marriages exist for the 1810 half eagle, which was reportedly struck to the extent of 100,287 coins. Each variety can be individually identified by examining the date (Small or Large) and the 5 in the denomination (Tall or Small). The two Small 5 variants are by far the rarest. This die marriage, BD-2, has a Small Date and a Small 5. John Dannreuther suggests a survivorship of 25 to 30 pieces. Only four examples of the BD-3 variety with a Large Date and Small 5 are known, the finest of which in AU53 also formed part of the Bass Core Collection, realizing \$264,000 in September 2022.

PCGS lists eight total submissions for the 1810 Small Date, Small 5 half eagle in problem-free condition. They include one each in XF45, AU50, AU53, AU55, AU55+ (the coin offered here), AU58, MS62 (ex: Pogue), and MS63 (11/22). See the roster below for a more complete listing of known BD-2 representatives.

This high-end Choice AU offering displays original deep red-gold surfaces and partial field reflectivity. The star radials are visible and Liberty's curls are sharp. Reverse detail is slightly more uneven but still strong. Light abrasions have no material effect on the fantastic eye appeal.

Roster of 1810 Small Date, Small 5, BD-2 Half Eagles

1. MS63 PCGS.

2. MS62 PCGS. David McCarthy, April 2004; Larry Hanks, December 2004; D. Brent Pogue Collection (Stack's Bowers, 2/2016), lot 3138, realized \$99,875; McCoy Family Collection (Heritage, 8/2020), lot 3984.

3. MS62 NGC. Husky Collection (Stack's, 6/2008), lot 2077, realized \$138,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4861, realized \$132,250.

4. AU58 PCGS, CAC. FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4665, realized \$109,250; Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr. Collection.

5. AU58 NGC. FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2004), lot 2175; San Francisco Signature (Heritage, 7/2005), lot 10345.

6. AU58 NGC. 70th Anniversary Sale (Stack's, 10/2005), lot 1229.

7. AU55+ PCGS, CAC. Charles Gozan; Auction '80 (Paramount, 8/1980), lot 923, as part of a complete four-piece set of 1810 half eagle die varieties; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry Bass Foundation, **the present coin.**

8. AU55 PCGS. Possibly J. Colvin Randall; Randall Collection, Part I (W. Elliot Woodward, 6/1885), lot 914; George Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2374; William H. Woodin, exhibited at the 1914 ANS Exhibition; Waldo Newcomer; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green, circa 1932, via B. Max Mehl; King Farouk, via Stack's, circa 1943; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 232; Auction '88 (David Akers, 7/1988), lot 900; Diocese of Buffalo (Heritage, 6/1997), lot 6399; J.A. Sherman Collection (Stack's, 8/2007), lot 3215.

9. AU50 NGC. Possibly purchased by James A. Stack in the 1940s; James A. Stack Collection (Stack's, 3/1995), lot 465; Hutchinson Collection (Heritage, 1/2017), lot 5865; York Collection (Stack's Bowers, 8/2018), lot 1266.

10. AU50 NGC. Discovered in the Midwest, circa 1993; Harold Rothenberger Collection (Superior, 1/1994), lot 2408; Dr. Jon Kardatzke Collection, Part II (Ira and Larry Goldberg, 6/2000), lot 1303.

11. XF45 PCGS. Possibly Grant Pierce Collection (Stack's, 5/1965), lot 1303; R.L. Miles Collection (Stack's, 10/1968), lot 347; Mike Brownlee; Purchased by Harry W. Bass, Jr. on August 2, 1994; Bass Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 795; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 2/2002), lot 6777.

12. AU55, cleaned and buffed, uncertified. Possibly Dr. Charles W. Green Collection (B. Max Mehl, 4/1949), lot 248; Philip G. Straus Collection (Stack's, 5/1959), lot 2406, with letters MIC in the field; Cicero Collection (New Netherlands, 12/1960), lot 110, letters removed; exhibited at RARCOA's table at the 1963 FUN Convention, per Walter Breen; 10th Anniversary Auction (Kreisberg/Schulman, 4/1967), lot 761; Auction '81 (Paramount, 7/1981), lot 1426; R.E. Naftzger FPL (Paramount, 1981), Auction '82 (Paramount, 7/1982), lot 1927; Charles Kramer Collection (Stack's/Superior, 11/1988), lot 310; Diocese of Buffalo (Heritage, 6/1997), lot 5326; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 2/2000), lot 1082, misattributed as Large Date, Small 5.

13. AU Details NGC. Diocese of Buffalo Collection (Heritage, 7/1997), lot 5200; New York Connoisseur's Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 3/2006), lot 1584; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2014), lot 5421.

14. AU Details, PCGS Genuine. Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2015), lot 6172; Baltimore Auction (Stack's Bowers, 11/2015), lot 20110.

Additional Appearances

A. "Proof." Phineas Adams; Harold P. Newlin; 69th Sale (John W. Haseltine, 6/1883), lot 345.

B. A specimen in the possession of the Pressman brothers of Cleveland, Ohio, reported by Walter Breen.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 507595 Base PCGS# 8105

1812 Half Eagle, BD-2, Frosty MS64
Scarce Narrow 5D Variety
Bold Strike Detail



9038 1812 Narrow 5D, BD-2, High R.4, MS64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/b. The 58,087 half eagles struck in 1812 were produced using two die pairs that shared a common obverse. They are distinguished by the space of 5 and D in the denomination. BD-1 features a Wide 5D, while BD-2 has a Close 5D, as here. According to John Dannreuther (2006), as many as 45,000 to 60,000 coins struck in 1812 were of the BD-1 variety with the Wide 5D reverse. About 300 to 450 of those survive. By contrast, only 10,000 to 15,000 of the BD-2, Close 5D type were struck, and merely 80 to 100 examples exist today. Dannreuther writes: "This scarce variety is underappreciated, as the date is quite available and little attention has been paid to this combination."

The total number of problem-free 1812 half eagles at PCGS amounts to 282 submissions (without distinguishing between varieties). A surprising number of them are in Mint State, explaining the issue's status as a more collectible date (although to underscore this particular variety's scarcity, Harry Bass was only able to acquire a single BD-2 example for his collection). Still, just six representatives are numerically finer, with the best coin at PCGS being a single MS65+ (11/22).

The surfaces of this near-Gem are light yellow-gold and thickly frosted. The stars, portrait, eagle, and legends exhibit razor-sharp design definition. The reverse fields are virtually abrasion-free, while the obverse shows a few superficial grazes.

Ex: Public Auction Sale (Lester Merkin, 3/1969), lot 191.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 507602 Base PCGS# 8112

1814/3 Half Eagle, Unc Details
BD-1, Scarce and Popular Overdate



9039 1814/3 BD-1, High R.4 — Filed Rims — PCGS Genuine. Unc. Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/c. All 15,454 half eagles struck in 1814 were coined from this die pair with the 4 in the date clearly punched over an underlying 3. Like the obverse, the reverse die was also carried over from the previous year, when it was used in the production of 1813 BD-2 half eagles. The 1814 BD-1 five dollar is scarce in all grades. The challenge it poses is compounded by its popularity. While 80 to 100 examples survive, John Dannreuther explains that "coins of this popular date/variety are quickly snapped up at auctions and on bourse floors."

Harry Bass snapped up this example in a 1978 Paramount sale. It was one of two 1814/3 half eagles he acquired over the course of his long collecting career. Although today it resides in a Details holder with Filed Rims noted, no mention of that imperfection was made in the Paramount description, nor was it mentioned in Dave Bowers' description for the coin in the *Bass Sylloge*. Rather than intentional omissions, we believe they may simply reflect the exceedingly minor nature of the issue. Only the faintest trace of filing appears at 12 o'clock, and it in no way effects the impeccable quality or eye appeal of this strongly struck survivor. Brilliant yellow-gold surfaces exhibit attractive green-gold accents and few abrasions.

Ex: The Versailles Collection (Paramount International Coin Corporation, 3/1978), lot 432, where it realized \$7,600.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519908 Base PCGS# 8117



1815 Capped Head Left Half Eagle, BD-1, MS62

Classic 19th Century Gold Rarity

Only 635 Pieces Struck

Ex: 'Colonel' Green-Farouk-Norweb-Bass



9040 1815 BD-1, R.7, MS62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/e, with an obverse die crack from the edge to star 9, and another connecting stars 12 and 13. The reverse has been lapped to remove clash marks, but a die crack still shows through 5 D and the period in the denomination. The 1815 Capped Head Left half eagle is a sought-after 19th century rarity, from a meager mintage of just 635 pieces. PCGS CoinFacts estimates the surviving population at 11-13 examples in all grades, while John Dannreuther gives a slightly larger estimate of 12-14 survivors in his standard series reference. PCGS and NGC have combined to certify just seven coins between them (11/22). Heritage catalogers David Stone and Mark Van Winkle were only able to trace 10 examples extant in their reference, *The 1815 Half Eagle: New Discoveries*, including two coins in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, and another in the Kungliga Myntkabinettet in Sweden. Heritage Auctions is privileged to present this landmark early gold rarity in just its third auction appearance.

Striking the Coins

The War of 1812 officially ended on February 17, 1815, but the adverse economic effects of the conflict lingered for some time. Accordingly, gold deposits were minimal throughout the year in 1815. Mint records indicate Thomas Parker deposited \$337.44 in gold bullion on June 24, Charles Kalkman made a larger deposit worth \$1,054 on July 3, and the Bank of Pennsylvania deposited gold valued at \$328.03 1/2 on October 30. According to Bullion Journal C in the National Archives, these were the only gold deposits made for the entire year, for a total value of just \$1,719.47 1/2. Fortunately, the Mint also had a small stock of uncoined bullion on hand from the previous year to augment the stockpile for coinage operations. On November 3, 1815, the Coiner delivered 635 Capped Head Left half eagles, plus another three examples for assay purposes. Due to a fire at the Mint on January 11, 1816, that severely damaged much of the machinery and infrastructure, no more half eagles were struck until 1818.

A single die variety is known for the date. This was the only use of the obverse die, but the reverse was used previously to strike the BD-2 variety of 1813 and the BD-1 variety of 1814.

History of a Rarity

Gold coinage did not circulate widely in this country at the time, due to wartime hoarding and melting, so it is likely that most 1815 half eagles were used to settle accounts in foreign trade. Accordingly, the first numismatist to acquire an 1815 half eagle was probably the King of Sweden, who purchased an example from a Captain Sandeberg in 1851. Sandeberg was a sea captain who reportedly purchased the coin from the estate of his father-in-law, Stockholm merchant Carl Scharp. Scharp probably acquired the coin in the normal course of business, near the time of issue, illustrating how far American coinage circulated at this early date (thanks to Director Ian Wiseln, of the Kungliga Myntkabinettet for this information). Beginning about 1821, changes in the price of silver vs. gold made the intrinsic value of U.S. gold coinage greater than its face value, and the coins were rarely seen in European circulation after that.

The first American collector to own an 1815 half eagle was probably Matthew Stickney, who purchased his coin from New York bullion brokers Beebe & Co. on October 1, 1851, for its bullion value of \$5.30, the first pricing information we have for any 1815 half eagle (the record price realized for the issue is \$822,500, brought by the PCGS MS65 D. Brent Pogue specimen in 2016). Either two or three examples (accounts vary) surfaced in a single bag of gold brought to a New York bullion broker in 1858, according to Massachusetts coin dealer W. Elliot Woodward and prominent collector William J. Jenks. Those coins were acquired by Jenks and influential numismatist George Seavey, but they only became known to the numismatic community much later.

For much of the 19th century, the 1815 half eagle was believed to be the rarest coin in the U.S. federal series. Joseph Mickley believed no half eagles had been struck in 1815 when he wrote his monograph *Dates of United States Coins and Their Degrees of Rarity* in 1858. Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson did succeed in finding the mintage figures for the 1815 before he published his *American Numismatist's Manual* the following year, but noted, "We have never met one of them." As late as 1871, prominent coin dealer Edward Cogan noted that he only knew of two examples of the 1815 half eagle, when he wrote a *Table of Gold, Silver and Copper Coins NOT Issued by the United States Mint*. The first auction appearance of an 1815 half eagle was in the Parmelee Collection of Coins (William Strobridge, 6/1873), lot 780, but the coin was withdrawn.

Gradually, other examples surfaced, as knowledge of the issue spread, but new appearances were few-and-far-between and the 1815 remains a formidable rarity today. Gold specialist David Akers noted:

"Without question, the 1815 Half Eagle is one of the most famous and desirable of all U.S. coins. A few other coins, even of this type, may be more rare, but with the exception of the 1822 Half Eagle, it is unlikely that any other U.S. gold coin is more desirable."

The Present Coin

This coin was discovered by Fort Worth coin dealer B. Max Mehl, who sold it to Wisconsin collector H.O. Granberg around 1912. From there, the provenance of this coin reads like a list of Who's Who among 20th century U.S. coin collectors. The coin passed to William Woodin, who would become Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Roosevelt. Woodin probably acquired this piece after 1914, since he did not exhibit it with his nearly complete half eagle collection at the 1914 ANS Exhibition. He reportedly sold his half eagles, including this coin, to Baltimore financier Waldo Newcomer around 1926. This coin was later a highlight of the collections of "Colonel" E.H.R. Green and King Farouk of Egypt, two of the most colorful and eccentric collectors of all time. It was acquired at the sale of Farouk's collection in 1954 by Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb. Emery May Holden Norweb was probably the foremost female coin collector of the 20th century, and she instilled her love of numismatics in her husband, who had a distinguished career in the diplomatic service. The Norwebs retained their collection throughout their lives and it was sold in a series of blockbuster auctions by Bowers and Merena, beginning in 1987. Extraordinary early gold collector Harry W. Bass, Jr. acquired this piece at the first sale of the Norweb holdings and it has been off the market ever since.

Physical Description

This spectacular MS62 example displays sharply detailed design elements in most areas, with some insignificant loss of detail on the reverse, due to lapping. Star 13 shows Assistant Mint Engraver John Reich's signature notch on the outer point. The lightly marked orange-gold surfaces radiate vibrant mint luster. On close examination, a few die striations are evident on Liberty's cheek. Overall eye appeal is outstanding. This coin is tied with one other MS62 example at NGC for the third spot on the Condition Census for the issue. It has not been publicly offered in 35 years, and it may be that long again before a comparable example becomes available. The discerning collector should bid accordingly. The 1815 half eagle is listed among the *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*. This coin is pictured on PCGS CoinFacts. Population: 1 in 62, 2 finer (11/22).

1815 Capped Head Left Half Eagle Roster, BD-1.

This roster was expanded from earlier work by Walter Breen, Carl Carlson, Saul Teichman, Wayne Burt, and Roger W. Burdette. Grades are per the last auction appearance, unless a subsequent certification is known.

1. **MS65 PCGS.** The Gutttag brothers; sold to Virgil Brand in 1925 for \$3,500, Brand Journal #136739; Brand Estate in 1926; Armin Brand; B.G. Johnson; J.F. Bell, per an invoice from Johnson to Bell dated 11/15/1945; Hollinbeck Coin Company FPL number 28 dated 1946; possibly Robert Schermerhorn; Texas Sale (Hollinbeck Coin Company, 12/1951), lot 1819; Charles E. Green; Ruth Green add in the April 1952 issue of *The Numismatist*; H.P. Graves; Davis-Graves Collection (Stack's, 4/1954), lot 1447; Dr. Clifford Smith Collection (Stack's, 5/1955), lot 1680; George O. Walton Estate; 85th ANA Convention Auction (Stack's, 8/1976), lot 2935; Stanley Kesselman; R.E. Naftzger, Jr., Naftzger FPL (Paramount, undated); Pogue Family Collection; D. Brent Pogue Collection (Stack's Bowers, 2/2016), lot 5871, realized \$822,500.

2. **MS64 NGC.** Unidentified New York Collector, circa 1858 per W. Elliot Woodward; Mendes I. Cohen Collection (Edward Cogan, 10/1875), lot 138; Heman Ely; Heman Ely Collection (Woodward, 1/1884), lot 830, reserve not met; W. Elliot Woodward; Harold P. Newlin, private treaty; T. Harrison Garrett, private treaty on 10/31/1884; Robert Garrett; John Work Garrett; Johns Hopkins University; Garrett Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1979), lot 460; Auction '84 (Paramount, 7/1984), lot 901; FUN Signature Auction (Heritage, 1/2009), lot 4062, realized \$460,000.

3. **MS62 PCGS.** B. Max Mehl in 1912; H. O. Granberg; William Woodin; Waldo Newcomer (plate match with the Newcomer plates); B. Max Mehl; Col. E.H.R. Green; King Farouk via Stack's in 1943; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 234, purchased by David Spink, acting as an agent for Mrs. R. Henry Norweb; Norweb Collection, Part I (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 767; Harry Bass; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation, HBCC-3128.

4. **MS62 NGC.** Baltimore Auction (Superior, 7/1993), lot 885; Dr. Richard Ariagno Collection (Ira and Larry Goldberg, 5/1999), lot 718; Dr. Jon Kardatzke Collection, Part II (Goldberg, 6/2000), lot 1306. The earlier pedigree of this specimen is uncertain. In the Kardatzke catalog, the lot description suggests this might be a reappearance of the coin in number 1 above, but the plates do not match.

5. **MS62, grade per Garrett and Guth.** Beebee, Ludlow & Co., Bullion and Exchange Bankers; sold to Matthew Stickney for \$5.30 on October 1, 1851; Mathew Stickney Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1907), lot 660; James Ten Eyck Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 183; Col. E.H.R. Green, J.F. Bell Collection (Stack's, 12/1944), lot 338; C.T. Weihman; Memorable Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 3/1948), lot 314, purchased by "Porky" according to John Jay Pittman's annotated copy of the sale, possibly he meant Phillip "Piggy" Ward acting as an agent for Clinton Hester; possibly Adolphe Menjou Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 6/1950), lot 289, the plates match but some numismatists believe they were stock photos, purchased by "JBS" according to John Jay Pittman's sales room copy of this catalog, probably Joseph B. Stack; Farish Baldenhoffer Collection (Stack's, 11/1955), lot 1232, mistakenly identified as the Farouk coin in this catalog; Josiah K. Lilly; National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.

6. **MS60, grade per Garrett and Guth.** Unidentified New York collector, circa 1858, per William J. Jenks; New York broker; New York City collector, possibly named Lawson; William J. Jenks, via William Miller of Penn Mutual Insurance Company; George Seavey, probably circa 1868; Lorin G. Parmelee; Parmelee Collection of Coins (William Strobridge, 6/1873), lot 780, withdrawn; Gaston L. Feuardent; Bispham Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 2/1880), lot 391, bought in per Ed Frossard in the March 1880 issue of *Numisma*; W. Elliot Woodward; William J. Jenks Collection (Woodward, 6/1883), lot 641; T. Harrison Garrett; Harold P. Newlin in a private transaction on October 31, 1884; Mint Cabinet, purchased for \$299 on December 4, 1885; National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.

7. **AU58 PCGS.** Unidentified New York collector, circa 1858, per William J. Jenks; New York broker; New York City collector, possibly named Lawson; unknown intermediaries; George Seavey, exhibited before the Boston Numismatic Society on February 4, 1869; Seavey Descriptive Catalog (William Strobridge, 6/1873), lot 407, Lorin G. Parmelee, who purchased the entire collection intact before the date of the sale; Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp, 6/1890), lot 894; H.P. Smith Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 5/1906), lot 204; John H. Clapp; Clapp Estate; Louis Eliasberg, Sr. in a private treaty transaction via Stack's in 1942; Eliasberg Estate, United States Gold Coin Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 370; Harry W. Bass, Jr., Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 805.

8. **AU50 NGC.** New York Estate, reportedly in the same family since 1820; 142nd Sale (Thomas Elder, 2/1917), lot 210a; Waldo Newcomer; William Cutler Atwater, by private treaty; Atwater Collection (Mehl, 6/1946), lot 1634; Amon Carter, Sr.; Amon Carter, Jr.; Amon Carter Collection (Stack's, 1/1984), lot 655; Charles Kramer Collection (Stack's/Superior, 11/1988), lot 317; Michael Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 317; Rogers Collection; Mike Storeim via Hanks and Associates; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 5/2001), lot 4040, unsold; sold to a private collector after the sale; Red Bank Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 12/2003), lot 938. Walter Breen attributed this coin to Col. James W. Ellsworth before Waldo Newcomer, and this has some credibility because Breen was close to Wayte Raymond, who sold Ellsworth's collection in the early 1920s and could have given him this information. On the other hand, in his column in *Hobbies Magazine* in March 1934, Elder claimed the lot in his 142nd Sale realized \$3,000, the exact sum Ron Guth reports Newcomer paid for his coin, according to the inventory of his collection. Of course, it is possible that Ellsworth purchased the coin at Elder's sale, and Wayte Raymond later sold the coin to Newcomer at the same price Ellsworth had paid for it.

9. **AU Details ANACS — Cleaned — Net XF45.** B. Max Mehl, advertised in the October 1938 issue of *The Numismatist*; Col. James Flanagan Collection (Stack's, 3/1944), lot 1092; bought in by Stack's; purchased privately by James A. Stack in December, 1944; James Stack; James Stack Collection (Stack's, 3/1995), lot 469; Hutchinson Collection; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2017), lot 5871.

10. A specimen in the Swedish Mint Museum/ King of Sweden Collection by Joseph Mickley in 1871. See *Mason's Stamp and Coin Collector's Magazine*, July 1872 issue, *American Journal of Numismatics*, January 1873 issue, and the Bispham catalog.

Other Appearances:

A. Henry Adams Collection (Edward Cogan, 10/1876), lot 1297. Possibly the same as E below.

B. William G. Stearns Collection; George W. Pratt purchased the collection, including the 1815 and many other rare gold coins, by private treaty according to the *American Journal of Numismatics*. Pratt displayed the collection to the Boston Numismatic Society in June of 1872 (see *AJN* July 1872, pages 16 and 17). The 1815 was not included in the sale of the Pratt Collection (Woodward, 9/1879) after his death. The 1815 may have passed to Jeremiah Colburn, who is reported to have purchased part of Pratt's collection.

C. A specimen displayed by George Creamer at the April 2, 1875 meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society, reported in the July 1875 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*.

D. Phineas Adams; 69th Sale (John W. Haseltine, 6/1883), lot 351, described as having "a small crack in the edge", purchased by George Cogan for \$100, acting as an agent for T. Harrison Garrett; T. Harrison Garrett; 25th Sale (George Massamore, 11/1884), lot 925. Possibly the same as the counterfeit in the Connecticut State Library.

E. Moses David; sold to Virgil Brand on August 14, 1899 for \$200, Brand Journal #20179; Brand Estate in 1926; Horace Brand; possibly handled by John Ford in 1966; possibly going to John Murrell. (Thanks to Saul Teichman and Wayne Burt for this information).

F. A specimen displayed by Elmer Sears at the 1911 ANA Convention, reported in the September 1911 issue of *The Numismatist*. Possibly the same as B above.

G. H.R. Lee Sale (Stack's, 10/1947), lot 125. Most of the coins were Eliasberg duplicates, but the 1815 might be the same as number 7 above, between Weihman's purchase at the Bell sale and its appearance at the Memorable Sale. Weiman may have acted as an agent for Stack's to buy the coin in at the 1944 Bell sale. Subsequently, if Stack's offered the coin in the Lee sale, Bell may have repurchased it, and later consigned it to Kosoff in the Memorable Sale.

H. A specimen displayed by Arthur D. Kelley at the 1939 ANA Convention.

I. A specimen advertized by James Kelley in the July 1939 edition of *The Numismatist*.

J. A specimen advertised by James P. Randall in the April 1949 issue of *The Numismatist*.

K. A specimen reported stolen from Willis DuPont in 1967. Possibly the same as E. above.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519909 Base PCGS# 8118

1819 BD-2 Half Eagle, MS62
A Classic Rarity in the Series
Ex: Farouk-Norweb



9041 1819 BD-2, R.7, MS62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. The BD-2 die marriage has the 5 and D in the denomination spaced widely apart, and the S in STATES is right over the E below. It is one of three die marriages now known for the 1819 half eagle. BD-1 shows 5D punched over 50, while BD-3, discovered by Heritage's own Senior Numismatist Mark Borckardt, was sold in our August 2014 ANA Signature auction.

John Dannreuther estimates just six to 10 examples of BD-2 extant, though the actual number may be even smaller, plus 16 to 20 examples of BD-1. To date, BD-3 remains unique with a single plugged and whizzed representative traced. Given those paltry numbers, it should come as no surprise that the Norweb cataloger, in writing up this coin, described the 1819 five dollar as "one of the great classic rarities in the half eagle series."

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection example is the finest 1819 Normal Reverse half eagle known. It is followed closely by the Pogue representative in MS61 PCGS. Thirty-five years ago, this coin was described as "Partially prooflike. Very sharply struck. Much mint lustre still survives." That certainly remains true. Light yellow-gold surfaces are partially lustrous and show nearly full design definition from rim to rim. The only minor exception is the left obverse border and the corresponding area on the other side, which are trivially soft. Scattered hairlines and other tiny marks explain the MS62 assessment.

Roster of 1819 Normal 5D, BD-2 Half Eagles

1. MS62 PCGS. King Farouk/The Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 236; Norweb Collection, Part I (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 770, \$55,000; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3133). This coin has sometimes been linked to the Ten Eyck specimen (see below), but the plates don't match. However, the Mehl plates can be notoriously unreliable, so we cannot rule the possibility in or out. **The present coin.**

2. MS61 PCGS. Peter Mougey Collection, purchased intact by William H. Woodin (Thomas Elder, 9/1910), lot 1070; William H. Woodin Collection; Waldo C. Newcomer Collection (inventory #101 as "Uncirculated" with a cost of \$650); B. Max Mehl, sold privately circa 1933; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; Stack's, sold privately; Henry P. Graves Collection (Stack's, 4/1954), lot 1449; Dr. Clifford Smith Collection (Stack's, 5/1955), lot 1682; ANA Sale (Stack's, 8/1976), lot 2936; Paramount Rare Coin List No. 15, April-May 1977, page 80; A Connoisseur's Collection (Superior, 1/1989), lot 354; David Akers, sold privately; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part III (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 2/2016), lot 3154, \$141,000; D.L. Hansen Collection.

3. Uncirculated, Uncertified. James Ten Eyck Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 185, \$900 (see note above for #1).

4. AU Details — Tooled, Whizzed — ANACS. This coin has been cited as having appeared in a 1926 Henry Chapman sale, but neither of the Chapman brothers conducted sales in 1926; Auction '79 (RARCOA, 7/1979), lot 1230; Robert W. Rusbar Collection (Bowers and Merena, 9/1990), lot 511, \$9,020; February Long Beach (Heritage, 2/1994), lot 6344, \$22,000; Dr. Jon Kardatzke Collection (Goldberg Auctions, 6/2000), lot 1308, \$19,550; Coin and Currency Auction (Goldberg Auctions, 10/2001), lot 2108, \$13,225; Allan H. Goldman Collection, Part II (Heritage, 10/2022), lot 3198, \$37,200.

5. Very Fine — Scratches in Right Field Behind Cap — Uncertified. Jerome David Kern Collection/Golden Jubilee Sale - B. Max Mehl 5/1950:352. This may be the #4 example above, which has been described as having tooling evident in the field by the 10th and 11th stars — the exact location of the scratches on this coin.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519918 Base PCGS# 8123

1820 BD-2 Half Eagle, MS64
Square Base 2, Large Letters
Traced Back to a 1907 Sale



9042 1820 Square Base 2, Large Letters, BD-2, High R.5, MS64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b. Diagnostics for this Square Base 2, Large Letters variety include star 1 away from Liberty's bust, the second T in STATES slightly right of the I in PLURIBUS, and the E next to it is high. The nine die varieties for the year break down into three major types: Square Base 2, as here (all have Large Letters), Curl Base 2 with Small Letters, and Curl Base 2 with Large Letters. BD-2 is one of the two more accessible varieties among them all along with BD-3, though it is considerably scarcer than that variant. BD-6 is rated R.6, while all other die marriages are R.7 or higher.

With all that said, this is still one of only 20 to 25 representatives believed extant, according to *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* (2006). Author John Dannreuther notes that Harry Bass was only able to obtain a single example: the one offered here. It compares with the MS64 PCGS CAC coin we offered in 2012 as part of the Harvey B. Jacobson Collection and may very well be tied atop the Condition Census for the variety with that piece.

Sharpness of strike, color, and luster are exquisite for an early half eagle. Pale hints of green complement frosty yellow-gold surfaces that are remarkably free of post-production blemishes. A few small reeding marks on Liberty's neck serve among the few pedigree identifiers. Endorsed by CAC for its terrific eye appeal and quality for the near-Gem grade.

Ex: David S. Wilson Collection (S.H. Chapman, 3/1907), lot 71; Public Auction Sale (Lester Merkin, 3/1969), lot 194.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519921 Base PCGS# 8125

1820 BD-6 Half Eagle, MS64+ PCGS
Curl Base 2, Small Letters
The Second Finest of the Variety
Ex: Clapp-Eliasberg



9043 1820 Curl Base 2, Small Letters, BD-6, High R.7, MS64+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State c/a. Obverse clash marks from the previous use of this die for BD-5 are no longer evident as the obverse die was lapped to remove those clash marks. However, there is little or no loss of design from the lapping process. This Small Letters reverse die shows spalling (die rust) within the shield, despite being its first use in 1820. Wispy reverse die cracks are evident at OF.

This is the first of three 1820-dated obverse dies with the Curl Base 2. The three dies also have a Fancy or Script 8, while the Square Base 2 dies have a Plain or Block 8. The Small Letters reverse made just two appearances, here and on BD-8, and both varieties are important rarities in the Capped Bust half eagle series. John Dannreuther estimates that six to 10 examples of BD-6 are known, and he suggests that just four to six examples of BD-8 survive. Our roster, below, shows just three examples of this rarity, while it is possible that one or two others might exist. Our similar roster of BD-8 includes six examples, again with one or two additional survivors. Our study of 1820 half eagles shows that Dannreuther's estimates for the two varieties should be switched.

Another switch that could take place is mixing the provenance of this Clapp-Eliasberg-Bass piece and the Earle-Jackson-Pogue coin. The coins are virtual twins. Fortunately, both coins have high quality photographs and well-documented provenance dating over 100 years. Regarding the provenance of this piece, the Eliasberg Collection cataloger wrote: "Earlier from a Chapman Brothers sale, 1893." The Chapman Brothers held two coin sales in 1893. They were the Nicholas Petry auction in May and the C.T. Whitman auction in August. Neither of those auctions included an 1820 half eagle. The Clapp notebook that was the source of that information reveals that J.M. Clapp purchased this coin from the Chapman Brothers in December 1893, and therefore this coin was acquired from the Philadelphia coin dealers privately.

While the Eliasberg cataloger incorrectly described this coin as having a "Large letters" reverse, the error is unsurprising due to the confused variety descriptions that existed at the time. The cataloger graded this piece "Choice Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-65, prooflike obverse; Select Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-63 reverse."

In a word, this piece is exquisite. Both sides have mostly mirrored fields that show areas of mint frost behind Liberty's head and below the eagle's wings. Those areas of mint frost are virtually identical on the Pogue coin. There is also a minuscule area of mint frost above the upright of the D in the denomination on both coins. The surfaces are brilliant green-gold with a few trivial marks of no consequence, and the strike is full, suggesting that extra care was taken at the time this coin was struck just over 200 years ago. It is the quality that past catalogers might have called "Semi-proof." The present piece is the highest graded example of just four submissions of the Curl Base 2, Small Letters type that currently appears in the PCGS population report (11/22). The finer Pogue coin was graded MS66+ PCGS when it was offered in 2016, but that entry no longer shows in the PCGS data.

In the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*, Q. David Bowers wrote: "Apparently one of the more plentiful die marriages." Our experience suggests otherwise, as we know of just three examples of this die marriage:

1. MS66+ PCGS. George H. Earle, Jr. Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2387; Malcolm N. Jackson Collection (United States Coin Company's (Wayte Raymond and Elmer Sears), 5/1913), lot 45; 55th Anniversary Sale, Part II (Stack's, 10/1990), lot 1681; Anthony Terranova; Larry Hanks, sold privately in 6/2000; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part III (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 2/2016), lot 3156, \$282,000. This coin no longer appears in the PCGS population report.

2. MS64+ PCGS. S.H. and H. Chapman (privately, 12/1893); John M. Clapp Collection; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 376, \$26,400; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3140).

The present coin.

3. AU50 ANACS. Memorable Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 3/1948), lot 317; February Sale (Superior, 2/1991), lot 2781, \$10,725; Michael I. Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 111, \$5,500; Hutchinson Collection, Part II (Heritage, 4/2017), lot 4252, \$37,600; Central States Signature (Heritage, 5/2022), lot 3968, \$54,000.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519925 Base PCGS# 8126

1820 BD-7 Half Eagle, MS66
Dannreuther's 'Obvious Proof'
Ex: Melish-Norweb



9044 1820 Curl Base 2, Large Letters, BD-7, High R.7, MS66 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/c with extensive obverse spalling (rust) in the fields and on the bust of this impressive half eagle. Minor reverse spalling is also evident although there is no evidence of the die crack that Dannreuther describes for the latest die state.

While PCGS has provided a more conservative opinion, the late Harry W. Bass, Jr. called this coin a "Specimen Piece" in his notes. John Dannreuther took that a step further, writing: "The Bass coin really is an obvious Proof and is the *earliest* date half eagle known in Proof!" This piece was called a "Proof" in *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*. Graded Proof-63 in the Norweb catalog, and that cataloger must have had Harry Bass in mind when writing: "An exceedingly important opportunity for the specialist and connoisseur." Those words remain true today. Abe Kosoff cataloged this piece as a "brilliant proof" in his 1956 catalog of the Melish Collection. Even PCGS Coin Facts gives an estimated grade of PR65 to this coin.

Walter Breen described this piece as one of two known proof examples, and then attempted to find a reason for striking proofs, as he did for many early proof issues. He suggested that they may have been struck in celebration of Alabama statehood late in 1819, or of Maine's statehood in March 1820. Breen also suggested that it may have marked the bicentennial of the Mayflower landing. Breen often used the "presentation-piece" argument for the existence of early proof coins.

Dannreuther recently reconsidered his opinion about the present piece in *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold*, grading the coin SP66. He writes: "Walter Breen reported three varieties for this year in Proof, as well as complete Proof sets, but there is only one example that this author has designated specially struck and it is controversial."

The varieties of 1820 half eagles were greatly confused in the 1960s when Walter Breen's monographs were published. Q. David Bowers explained in the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*:

"Half eagles bearing the 1820 date are the source of more confusion regarding varieties than any other year of the denomination. In his *Early U.S. Half Eagles 1795-1838* (1966) Walter Breen described four obverse dies and five reverse dies, in combination to form six die marriages. In his *New Varieties of \$1, \$2.50 and \$5.00 United States Gold* (1968), he same author discussed for other possible varieties, one reported by Mrs. Norweb and the others taken from the notes of Edgar H. Adams."

Breen's confusion is understandable as he likely never saw every variety of early gold in person and had to rely on photographs from older catalogs published in the middle 20th century. Proper classification of varieties was only possible when the coins were available for study, as they were for Mr. Bass who was in a position to study the coins in his collection. The authors and contributors of the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge* relied greatly on the original collection notes, and several years later, John Dannreuther presented the material in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties, A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*. As a result of those efforts, beginning with the careful study of Harry Bass, we know that there are nine die varieties of 1820 half eagles.

There are three *Guide Book* varieties of 1820 half eagles (shown here with their associated Bass-Dannreuther variety numbers): Square Base 2 with the Large Letters reverse (BD-1, 2, 3, 4), Curl Base 2 with Large Letters (BD-5, 7, 9), and Curl Base 2 with Small Letters (BD-6, 8). Dannreuther estimates that 78 to 104 examples survive of the four Square Base 2 varieties, that 28 to 37 survive of the Curl Base 2, Large Letters varieties, and that 10 to 16 survive of the Curl Base 2, Small Letters varieties.

PCGS and NGC population data will provide a clearer picture of the rarity and survival of 1820 half eagles. The two grading services have examined 128 submissions that have earned numerical grades, plus additional "genuine" or "details" grade coins. Nearly 85% of the numerical grade coins are certified as MS60 or better. There are 64 examples of the Square Base 2 variety, 17 examples of the Curl Base 2, Large Letters combination, six submissions of the Curl Base 2, Small Letters rarity, and 41 unattributed pieces. The average certified grade of all 1820 half eagles is MS62.

Turning our attention specifically to the 1820 BD-7 die combination presented here, we find an unusual situation among early coins, and among early half eagles in particular. We can account for seven surviving examples of the die marriage. With a single exception, each one of those coins has at one time or another been graded MS65 or better, or called a Gem specimen! Of course, the Bass Collection coin is unquestionably the finest of those, and perhaps the only existing proof 1820 half eagle. We are aware of the following:

1. MS66 PCGS (Specimen or Proof). David S. Wilson Collection (S.H. Chapman, 3/1907), lot 70; John Zug; later, Thomas G. Melish Collection (Abe Kosoff, 4/1956), lot 1943; Norweb Family Collection (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 772. This is not the Earle Collection coin as reported in the February 2016 Pogue catalog. **The present coin.**

2. MS65+ PCGS. Samuel W. Wolfson Collection (Stack's, 10/1962), lot 363; later, D. Brent Pogue Collection (Stack's Bowers, 2/2016), lot 3157; Stack's Bowers (3/2020), lot 7333; Stack's Bowers (6/2021), lot 2480.

3. MS65+ PCGS. Bowers and Merena (6/1986), lot 344; Heritage (4/2008), lot 2435; D. Brent Pogue Collection (Stack's Bowers, 2/2016), lot 3158.

4. MS65 PCGS. Wayne Pratali (8/13/1969); Harry W. Bass, Jr. (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 814; Superior (2/2001), lot 4580; ANR (8/2004), lot 1009.

5. Gem Brilliant Uncirculated, fully prooflike. James A. Stack, Sr. Collection (Stack's, 10/1994), lot 1068.

MS65 NGC. John A. Beck Collection (Quality Sales Corp., 1/1975), lot 403; Heritage (8/2001), lot 7766.

6. Unc Details Cleaned NGC. Heritage (7/2021), lot 3096.

This Premium Gem has the characteristics of early proof coins, displaying a bold strike and deeply mirrored fields, including within most of the shield stripes on the reverse. Strong field-to-device cameo contrast is evident on both sides. The spaces between dentils on each side are not mirrored, and that may be the reason PCGS called this example Mint State rather than proof. However, it is an exceptional example in either format. The surfaces display rich honey-gold brilliance and a few splashes of rose toning. We concur with the Norweb cataloger who wrote: "A glittering gem specimen of a date which would be a landmark in Mint State, never mind Proof."

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519926 Base PCGS# 8127

1821 BD-1 Half Eagle, MS63
A Rare Half Eagle Issue
High Condition Census



9045 1821 BD-1, High R.6, MS63 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/a. The obverse is perfect with no die clash, cracks, or lapping. This is the only use of the obverse die with no visual explanation why it was taken out of service. The reverse die is also perfect and appears here in its second of six uses, including 1820 BD-9, both varieties of 1821, and all examples of 1822, 1823, and 1824. This is a rare issue in a series replete with rarities. There are two varieties known of 1821 half eagles with a total estimated population of 17 coins for both varieties combined.

The die combination offered here is BD-1 that has an obverse die with Star 6 pointing to the cap above the headband. Star 13 is close to the hair curl and the border on this die. The Large Letters reverse has the letters in STATES filling much of the space between the scroll and the border. This is the same die marriage as the Gem Cameo proof that realized a record price in Part I of the Bass Core Collection. John Dannreuther estimates that 12 to 15 are known, and our census that is presented below records 15 examples of BD-1, including two proofs (one is in the Smithsonian Institution).

Although he had the opportunity to do so, Mr. Bass never acquired the other 1821 variety that is attributed as BD-2. The obverse of BD-2 has Star 6 pointing to the headband well below the cap. Star 13 is clearly separated from the hair curl and the border. The reverse of BD-2 is the same die as BD-1. Dannreuther estimates that three to five examples are known, although we have located only two examples that are also recorded in the census below.

Like many issues of early half eagles, Walter Breen recorded another variety that is unknown today. Breen 1-A and Breen 2-A are both examples of BD-2, while Breen 3-A is the same as BD-1. Breen's obverse 2 was described from the 1947 ANA auction, and he noted that Bell II, lot 599 was another example. Both of those appearance match his 1-A die marriage.

This sharply defined Select Mint State piece exhibits rich green-gold luster and splashes of delicate rose toning on each side. Trivial and inconsequential handling marks limit the numerical grade. An aesthetically pleasing piece, this conditionally rare example has earned the approval of CAC.

Roster of 1821 BD-1 Half Eagles

1. PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC. Possibly A. Dohrmann Collection (W. Elliot Woodward, 3/1882), lot 514; John Colvin Randall Collection (W. Elliot Woodward, 6/1885), lot 927, per Walter Breen; William H. Woodin, displayed at the 1914 ANS Exhibition (plate 15); Waldo Newcomer, plate matched to Newcomer plates, first example; Colonel E.H.R. Green; B.G. Johnson; King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 237; Norweb Collection (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 773; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation.

Notes. Randall Collection, Part II (Woodward, 9/1885), lot 1029, called proof, possibly a reappearance of the coin in the first Randall sale. Although Walter Breen indicated that Woodin bought the coin in lot 927 of the June 1885 Randall sale, Woodin himself wrote in the May 1911 issue of *The Numismatist* that he purchased his first gold coins from Randall around 1888. It is possible that Randall bought the coin in at the first sale, where it sold for only \$17, offered it again in the second sale, bought it in again, and finally sold it to Woodin in 1888.

2. PR65 Cameo. An example in the National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution, formerly in the Mint Cabinet.

3. MS66+ PCGS. Abe Kosoff; Texas collector (possibly Jeff Browning, John Murrell, or Robert Schermerhorn); Roy E. Naftzger Fixed Price List (Paramount, 1981); Mack and Brent Pogue in April 1982; Pogue Collection, Part IV (Stack's Bowers, 5/2016), lot 4025, realized \$564,000.

4. MS63+ PCGS. Possibly William Cutler Atwater Collection (B. Max Mehl, 6/1946), lot 1639; Amon Carter, Sr.; Amon Carter, Jr.; Amon Carter Family Collection (Stack's, 1/1984), lot 659; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Goldberg Auctions, 1/2014), lot 1777, realized \$540,500; European collector, via Joe O'Connor; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2015), lot 4291, realized \$352,500 to Doug Winter; McCoy Family Collection (Heritage, 8/2020), lot 3993.

5. MS63 PCGS. David S. Wilson Collection (S.H. Chapman, 3/1907), lot 72; later, Wolfson Collection (Stack's, 10/1962), lot 365; Nate Shapero Collection (Stack's, 10/1971), lot 975; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection. **The present coin.**

6. MS62 NGC. George Seavey, exhibited before the Boston Numismatic Society on February 14, 1869; Seavey Descriptive Catalog (William Strobridge, 6/1873), lot 437; Lorin G. Parmelee, who purchased Seavey's collection intact before the date of the sale; Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp, 6/1890), lot 930; Harlan Page Smith Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 5/1906), lot 209; John H. Clapp; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. in 1942, via Stack's; Eliasberg estate; United States Gold Coin Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 377; Pre-Long Beach Auction (Superior, 5/2006), lot 1104.

7. AU58 PCGS. F.C.C. Boyd; World's Greatest Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 1/1946), lot 370; Memorable Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 3/1948), lot 320; Adolphe Menjou Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 6/1950), lot 1466; Farish Baldenhofer Collection (Stack's, 11/1955), lot 1238; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4673, realized \$161,000.

8. AU55. Colonel E.H.R. Green; C.T. Weihman; Josiah K. Lilly; National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution. Grade by Garrett and Guth.

9. AU55 NGC. Joseph J. Mickley; W. Elliot Woodward; William Sumner Appleton; John C. Schayer; Woodward again; T. Harrison Garrett on January 17, 1883; Robert Garrett; John Wok Garrett; Johns Hopkins University; Garrett Collection, Part I (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1979), lot 464; October Sale (Superior, 10/1990), lot 2094; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 5/2003), lot 3697; Frog Run Farm Collection (American Numismatic Rarities, 11/2004), lot 1797; Baltimore Auction (Bowers and Merena, 3/2009), lot 3707; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2014), lot 5427.

10. AU55 NGC. Belden Roach Collection (B. Max Mehl, 2/1944), lot 545; Jerome Kern Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1950), lot 355; ANA Convention Sale (Stack's, 8/1976), lot 2938; March Sale (Stack's, 3/1983), lot 1294; purchased privately from Stack's by the owner of the Rajj Collection, 4/1983; Rajj Collection (Stack's Bowers, 8/2011), lot 7671.

11. AU55 PCGS. Golden Sale (Kreisberg-Schulman, 3/1962), lot 2483; S.S. Forrest, Jr. Collection (Stack's, 9/1972), lot 209; Robison Collection (Stack's, 2/1979), lot 357; Blue Moon Collection (Stack's Bowers, 3/2017), lot 2330; Del Loy Hansen. From a tiny planchet flaw on the neck we believe this coin might be the one S.H. Chapman described in lot 943 of the Gilbert D. Kingman Collection (Chapman, 2/1920). Chapman noted the coin had been in the same family holding since 1823.

12. AU53 PCGS. CAC. Dr. Clifford Smith Collection (Stack's, 5/1955), lot 1684; Public Auction Sale (Lester Merkin, 9/1967), lot 423; Auction '81 (Paramount, 7/1981), lot 1428; Baltimore Auction (Bowers and Merena, 11/2009), lot 3684; Fun Signature (Heritage, 1/2020), lot 4406.

13. AU Cleaned PCGS Genuine. FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2017), lot 5896.

14. AU Altered Surfaces PCGS Genuine. Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 6/2018), lot 4134.

15. AU Tooled, Polished, Net VF20 ANACS. Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2017), lot 4253.

Roster of 1821 BD-2 Half Eagles

MS61 NGC. James Lawson before 1880; Lawson's collection was stored in a bank vault after his death until it was consigned to Abe Kosoff by Mrs. Mabel R. Sandford, presumably one of his heirs; ANA Convention Sale (Numismatic Gallery, 8/1947), lot 429; possibly I.E. Chadwick Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 5/1952), lot 604; Thomas Melish Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 4/1956), lot 1947; J.F. Bell II (RARCOA, 4/1963), lot 599; 10th Anniversary Auction (Kreisberg-Schulman, 4/1967), lot 771; Davies/Niewoehner Collections (Paramount, 6/1975), lot 555; Arnold and Romisa Collections (Bowers and Merena, 9/1984), lot 127; Auction '85 (RARCOA, 7/1985), lot 435; Charles Kramer Collection (Stack's/Superior, 12/1988), lot 323; Auction '89 (Superior, 7/1989), lot 888; Michael Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 112; Rogers Collection; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Superior, 5/2001), lot 4043; Hanks and Associates. Akers plate coin.

AU55 NGC. George H. Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2391; Davis Collection (Thomas Elder, 4/1920), lot 623; Waldo Newcomer, pictured on the Newcomer plates, second example; Col. E.H.R. Green; Flanagan Collection (Stack's, 3/1944), lot 1097; J.F. Bell Collection (Stack's, 12/1944), lot 343; H.R. Lee Sale (Stack's 10/1947), lot 1240; Eliasberg-Evans Collections (New Netherlands, 6/1957), lot 378; Collector's Portfolio (Kreisberg, 10/1978), lot 1114; unknown intermediaries; Baltimore ANA (Heritage, 7/2008), lot 1954; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2014), lot 5727.

Additional Appearances

A number of other auction appearances of 1821 half eagles have been published in many auction catalogs. Most of these additional appearances are unplated, although some have low quality plates that render plate-matching difficult or impossible.

A. A.C. Kline Sale (Moses Thomas & Sons, 6/1855), lot 189, called a proof in the description.

B. Sixth Semi-Annual Sale (Woodward, 3/1865), lot 2773, realized \$33 to John F. McCoy; sold privately to Heman Ely for \$40; Heman Ely Collection (Woodward, 1/1884), lot 834.

C. Mendes I. Cohen Collection (Edward Cogan, 10/1875), lot 142, realized \$200 to Phineas Adams; William J. Jenks; Sixty-Ninth Sale (John W. Haseltine, 6/1883), lot 356.

D. Anderson-Stenz-Cram Collections (William Strobridge, 3/1877), lot 595.

E. A specimen purchased by Virgil Brand in 1906 from a dealer named Pelletier for \$250.

F. Beebee, Ludlow & Co., Bullion and Exchange Bankers; sold to Matthew Stickney for \$5.35 on January 6, 1846; Matthew A. Stickney Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1907), lot 664. Plated.

G. Henry Jewett Collection (S.H. Chapman, 6/1909), lot 870, "Uncirculated. Perfect sharp impression. Proof surface." Plated.

H. Peter Mougey Collection (Thomas Elder, 9/1910), lot 1071. Plated.

I. Craig Clare Collection (Thomas Elder, 7/1919), lot 591.

J. James Ten Eyck Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 187; Rare Coin Auction (Superior, 12/1972), lot 1941. Plated.

K. Sale Number 399 (J.C. Morgenthau, 5/1939), lot 142.

L. William Forrester Dunham Collection (B. Max Mehl, 6/1941), lot 2094. Plated.

M. Texas Sale (Kagin/Hollinbeck, 12/1951), lot 1822.

N. Farrish Baldenhofer Collection (Stack's, 11/1955), lot 1239.

O. FUN Sale (Federal Brand, 1/1963), lot 4182. Plated.

P. According to the inventory of his collection, Colonel Green owned at least one more coin, in addition to the three examples attributed to him above.

Q. Offered by Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the October 2000 Long Beach Convention.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*

PCGS# 519929 Base PCGS# 8129

1826 BD-1 Half Eagle, Unc Details
Ex: John A. Beck Collection



- 9046 1826 BD-1, R.5 — Repaired — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details.
Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/e with the reverse lapped having, per Harry Bass, “most of shield’s interior polished.” This piece faces up nicely with frosty mint luster on the green-gold obverse. Swirling tool marks on the reverse left and right of the eagle indicate that this half eagle once had a pin attached for use as jewelry. The Beck catalog in 1975 mentioned “a faint thin scratch, invisible without use of a strong glass” on the reverse. There was no discussion of the repair in the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*. John Andrew Beck (1859-1924) was a Western Pennsylvania collector who operated the John A. Beck Salt Company. In addition to his coin collection, Beck formed an important collection of Indian relics that was donated to the Carnegie Museum.
Ex: John A. Beck Collection, Part I (*Quality Sales Corp.*, 1/1975), lot 405.
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519937 Base PCGS# 8135

1828 BD-4 Half Eagle, MS63+
The Third Finest of Nine
Ex: King Farouk-Norweb



9047 1828 BD-4, R.7, MS63+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b with a die crack that joins the base of 5 D. There are four varieties of half eagles dated 1828 and two of those are from an 8 over 7 obverse die. That overdate obverse was matched with an 1826 reverse for BD-1, and a new reverse for BD-2 (the photos of BD-2 in the Bass-Dannreuther book are incorrect). Two perfect date obverse dies were combined with the same new reverse die of BD-2. While the reverse die was used for three of the four 1828 varieties, it is only found with the die crack at 5 D on the BD-4 die marriage, showing that these were the last 1828 half eagles coined. This reverse die, with the die crack, reappeared on the large size 1829 BD-1 half eagles.

As a date, 1828 half eagles are underrated, and are rarer than suggested in past estimates. John Dannreuther estimates a total of 19 to 25 examples for all four varieties, while our census shows just 16 surviving coins: four examples of BD-1, one example of BD-2, two of BD-3, and nine of BD-4. We present a complete roster for the date below. The listings for BD-1, 2, and 3 are abbreviated, while that for BD-4 is detailed.

Our census shows that Mr. Bass owned one quarter of the known population for 1828 half eagles, including BD-1, BD-3, and two examples of BD-4. That is truly remarkable. The Smithsonian Institution has three examples including the only known proof, and the Pogue Collection had two. The three Smithsonian Institution coins further diminishes the availability of the 1828 half eagles. Therefore, the collectible population of these coins is just 13 pieces, including three of BD-1, one of BD-2, one of BD-3, and eight of BD-4.

This Select Mint State piece is a beauty with highly lustrous honey-gold surfaces that exhibit splashes of deep orange toning. The high points are a trifle weak although most design definition is nicely brought up. Trivial surface marks are evident in the fields and limit the grade, but the PCGS Plus designation and the CAC approval both point to exceptional aesthetics. This is the third finest of seven PCGS submissions (11/22), and that population data is consistent with our census.

Ex: *King Farouk Auction* (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 243; *Norweb Family Collection* (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 778. This lot was illustrated at lot 770 in the *Norweb catalog*.

Roster of 1828 BD-1 Half Eagles:

1. **MS64 PCGS.** Auction '82 (Paramount, 8/1982), lot 1932; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation.
2. **MS64 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4680.
3. **MS63 PCGS.** Pogue Collection, Part IV (Stack's Bowers, 5/2016), lot 4034.
4. **AU58 Uncertified.** Smithsonian Institution.

The unique 1828 BD-2 Half Eagle:

1. **MS63 NGC.** Heritage (4/2017), lot 4257.

Roster of 1828 BD-3 Half Eagles:

1. **PR67 Uncertified.** Mint Cabinet, Smithsonian Institution.
2. **MS61 PCGS.** Auction '88 (Akers, 7/1988), lot 904; NCI, purchased by Harry Bass on 5/23/1989; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation.

Roster of 1828 BD-4 Half Eagles:

In addition to the nine examples recorded here, our notes include 19 additional auction records of coins that are untraceable today. Most of those are not plated in the catalogs with no other provenance information.

1. **MS65+ PCGS.** Possibly James Ten Eyck, per Mehl's comments in the Dunham catalog; Ten Eyck Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 193; Waldo Newcomer (plate match from the Newcomer plates); B. Max Mehl, circa 1931; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green, circa 1932; unknown intermediaries; Paramount's Rare Coin List No. 7, 1974, page 52; Davies-Niewoehner Collection (Paramount, 2/1975), lot 561; Auction '79 (Stack's, 7/1979), lot 817; D. Brent Pogue Collection (Stack's Bowers, 5/2016), lot 4035, realized \$458,250. The attribution of this coin to the Newcomer-Green-Farouk Collections in the Pogue catalog appears to be incorrect (see the #3 Bass coin below).

2. **MS64 PCGS. CAC.** Dupont Collection; Farish Baldenhofer Collection (Stack's, 11/1955), lot 1246; Samuel Wolfson Collection (Stack's, 10/1962), lot 372; Auction '82 (Paramount, 8/1982), lot 1933; R.E. Naftzger, Jr.; Naftzger-Paramount Fixed Price List; October Sale (Superior, 10/1990), lot 2095; Michael Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 119; Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr., FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 4679, realized \$402,500; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2013), lot 4517, realized \$499,375.

3. **MS63+ PCGS. CAC.** William Woodin Collection, displayed at the 1914 ANS Exhibition; Waldo Newcomer Collection; B. Max Mehl, sold privately in the early 1930s; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; Stack's, sold privately in 1943 via Chase Manhattan Bank; Farouk Collection (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 243; Abe Kosoff; Norweb Collection, Part I (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 778, \$44,000; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection. **The present coin.** As noted by other researchers and catalogers, the provenances for the two Bass coins were flipped when the sale envelopes were switched. The corrected provenances for this coin and #5 below are based on plate-matching of the two coins. Photos of this coin and the 1819 half eagle were reversed in the Norweb catalog. This piece is illustrated at lot 770 in that catalog, and the 1819 is listed at lot 778.

4. **MS63 Uncertified (grade per Jeff Garrett).** Davis-Graves Collection (Stack's, 4/1954), lot 1452; Clifford T. Weihman; Josiah K. Lilly Collection, donated intact in 1968 by Lilly's estate to the National Numismatic Collection in exchange for a \$5.5 million tax credit; National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

5. **MS62 PCGS.** William Hesslein, sold privately on 11/25/1919; T. Harrison Garrett Collection; Robert Garrett Collection; John Work Garrett Collection, Part I (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1979), lot 470, \$70,000; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 10/1999), lot 819, \$55,200; Hutchinson Collection (Heritage, 1/2017), lot 5878, \$199,750; McCoy Family Collection (Heritage, 8/2020), lot 4001, \$222,000; D.L. Hansen Collection.

6. **MS62 NGC.** H.P. Smith Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 5/1906), lot 217, \$240; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 386, \$26,400; Charles Kramer Collection (Superior, 11/1988), lot 329; Ft. Lauderdale Collection (Superior, 1/2005), lot 1028.

7. **AU55 PCGS.** Margene Heathgate Collection (Superior, 6/1997), lot 1492.

8. **AU Details NGC, Repaired.** Heman Ely Collection (W. Elliot Woodward, 1/1884), lot 840; All the Kingdoms of the World (W. Elliot Woodward, 10/1884), lot 1156; Randall Collection (W. Elliot Woodward, 6/1885), lot 933; unknown intermediaries; William Cutler Atwater Collection (B. Max Mehl, 6/1946), lot 1645; Amon G. Carter, Jr. Collection (Stack's, 1/1984), lot 663; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/1999), lot 5700; Smith and Youngman Collections (Bowers and Merena, 3/2003), lot 2272; 68th Anniversary Sale (Stack's, 10/2003), lot 2112; Dallas Signature (Heritage, 10/2006), lot 2715; Donald E. Bently; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2014), lot 5434; Long Beach Expo (Heritage, 9/2019), lot 4912, \$26,400; Dallas Signature (Heritage, 12/2019), lot 3297, \$21,600; Dallas Signature (Heritage, 8/2020), lot 4000, \$22,800.

This coin is traceable through its early appearances by the presence of the initials G.W. and the date 1806 inscribed in the fields, mentioned in the descriptions. After the Carter sale, the initials were removed, but the coin is still recognizable.

9. **XF Sharpness, Repaired, Uncertified.** Joel Rettew fixed price list, winter 1976; Bowers and Ruddy, *Rare Coin Review* #26; Auction '79 (RARCOA, 7/1979), lot 1234; Dr. Jon Kardatzke Collection (Ira and Larry Goldberg, 6/2000), lot 1314.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519943 Base PCGS# 8138

1831 BD-1 Half Eagle, AU Details
Small 5D Reverse



9048 1831 Small 5D BD-1, High R.6 — Repaired — PCGS Genuine. AU Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/c with a short obverse crack from the border through two lower points of star 5. This piece was acquired from Superior's February 1973 auction, usually called the Gilhousen auction, that was formed by Los Angeles collector Clarke E. Gilhousen (1869-1952). His obituary in the *Los Angeles Times* called Gilhousen a "veteran aircraft worker."

Few 1831 half eagles survive. John Dannreuther estimates a total population of 36 to 48 coins for both varieties. Numerous fine tooling marks are evident on both sides of this light yellow gold piece that has a hint of field reflectivity. A few copper toning spots are evident.

Ex: *Rare Coin Auction, Part I* (Superior, 2/1973), lot 359.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 519948 Base PCGS# 45295

1833 BD-3 Half Eagle, AU58+
Small Date, Only Two Examples Traced



9049 1833 Small Date, BD-3, High R.7, AU58+ PCGS. CAC.
Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b. The total number of half eagles struck in 1833 was 193,630 coins. A majority of the mintage was manufactured from the BD-1 die pair with a Wide, Large Date. About 35 to 45 examples survive of that variety. The next die combination, BD-2, features a Close, Small Date and shares a reverse with BD-1. It is slightly less collectible with an estimated surviving population of 22 to 28 pieces. The third and final variety for the 1833 half eagle is BD-3. It, too, has a Close, Small Date but the reverse differs. The 5 in the denomination is under the tip of the fletching and the period is much closer to the D. John Dannreuther (2006) suggests only three to five BD-3 coins exist.

This was the only example that Harry Bass was able to locate. He purchased the coin in 1973 — the only auction appearance for an 1833 BD-3 half eagle between 1953 and 1987. Those two offerings were represented by the same coin, which today is housed in an MS61 PCGS holder. We have handled that piece on two separate occasions recently, once in 2017 and again in 2019, when we noted:

“Efforts to locate additional representation of the variety in old auction catalogs have yielded little data. BD-3 coins were plated in two early Chapman sales, including S.H. Chapman’s 1907 auction of the David S. Wilson Collection and Henry Chapman’s 1912 offering of the George H. Earle Collection, as well as later in A. Kosoff’s 1962 ‘Illustrated History’ catalog of the Judd Collection. However, in each case, the quality of the plate was insufficient to positively match the coin to a known specimen today. Going by strike, each plate shows a coin that appears too sharp to be the Norweb specimen, although it remains possible that all three were earlier appearances of the Bass coin. If so, then it is unlikely that more than two BD-3 specimens exist.”

The Bass and Norweb examples remain the only two BD-3 representative we have been able to locate. This coin, offered here for the first time in nearly 50 years, displays warm yellow-gold color and partial luster around the well-struck relief elements. Abrasions are uniformly small and undistracting.

Roster of 1833 BD-3 Half Eagles

1. MS61 PCGS. Auction Sale (Hollinbeck Coin Company, 3/1953), lot 645D; The Norweb Collection, Part I (Bowers and Merena, 10/1987), lot 783; Four Landmark Collections (Bowers and Merena, 3/1989), lot 620; Public Auction Sale (Stack’s, 5/1994), lot 661; Hutchinson Collection, Part II / Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2017), lot 4263, realized \$82,250; Dallas Signature (Heritage, 12/2019), lot 3298, realized \$96,000.
2. AU58+ PCGS. CAC. Purchased from Numismatics, Ltd., (6/9/1973); Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation; ANA Money Museum. Bass Sylloge 3162. **The present coin.**

Additional Appearances:

A. Uncirculated. David S. Wilson Collection (S.H. Chapman, 3/1907), lot 83, realized \$40.00.
B. Extremely Fine. George H. Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2404, realized \$57.50.
C. Uncirculated. J. Hewitt Judd; Illustrated History United States Coins (Kosoff, 1962), lot 85.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 519954 Base PCGS# 8158

1834 Motto Half Eagle, MS62+
Scarce Crosslet 4 Type, BD-2
Final Year of This Design



9050 1834 With Motto, Crosslet 4, BD-2, R.5 MS62+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b. The 1834 Capped Head Left half eagle represents the final year of issue for this design. It was struck to the reported extent of 50,141 pieces, and two major types are known: Plain 4 and Crosslet 4. The Plain 4 type breaks down into two varieties: BD-1, with the feather tip left over the 5 in the denomination, and BD-3, with the feather tip over the 5. Similarly, two die varieties exist for the Crosslet 4 type. BD-2 features a pointed curl over the 4 in the date, while BD-4 has a rounded curl over that last digit. Only three to five examples of BD-3 are thought to exist, while BD-4 is unique. BD-1 is the only collectible Plain 4 variety and BD-2 is the only accessible Crosslet 4 variety.

According to John Dannreuther (2006), perhaps as much as half the original mintage was struck from this set of dies, though only 45 to 55 examples are known. With numbers like that, the 1834 BD-2 five dollar would be considered a significant rarity in any other series, but all 1829-1834 Motto half eagles are challenging and many of them are even more elusive. Still, this was the only BD-2 representative that Harry Bass owned. As advanced a collector as he was, he also owned the unique example of the other Crosslet 4 variety (BD-4), which he purchased in 1995, late in his collecting career.

The present MS62+ specimen certainly enjoys a spot on the Condition Census, though a few pieces exist in moderately higher grades (MS63+ and MS64+). Dave Bowers called this an "outstanding example" with "satiny greenish gold lustre and light cameo contrast." A coppery alloy spot over the center of Liberty's portrait aids in attribution, while lightly scattered marks would be difficult to use as pickup points for pedigree purposes. Population: 1 in 62 (1 in 62+), 3 finer (11/22).

Ex: Purchased from Lester Merkin (5/17/1974).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519956 Base PCGS# 8161



1834 Unique BD-4 Half Eagle, MS64+
With Motto, Crosslet 4
'King of the Fat Head Fives'



9051 1834 With Motto, Crosslet 4, BD-4, High R.8, MS64+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. John Dannreuther calls this variety the “King of the Fat Head Fives.” The obverse has a Crosslet 4 in the date that is positioned under the left side of the complete lowest curl. The other Crosslet 4 variety, BD-2, has an incomplete lowest curl. Stars 7, 8, and 13 are recut, and the top of the 1 in the date is also recut. The obverse appears perfect with no cracks, clash marks, or die lapping. The first S in STATES on the reverse is sharply recut. The reverse die is cracked from the scroll under the M in UNUM to the back of the eagle’s neck, from the right wing to the tail of the R in AMERICA to the border, and from the stem to the period in the denomination and to the border. This third crack continues upward through the arrow feather to the shield border. Another die crack joins the bases of TED in UNITED.

New varieties, when discovered, are typically new combinations of previously known dies, or they have one known die mated with an unknown die. The present piece is unusual among new variety discoveries, as neither die is used in any other combination. In his *New Varieties* monograph (*New Varieties of \$1, \$2.50 And \$5.00 United States Gold*), Walter Breen identifies a variety as 1834 I-3 with a new reverse:

“1834 I-3, with crosslet 4, does come with a rev. different from foregoing; lowest arrow points to left tip of left foot of A, middle arrow to left foot of I (on the other rev. it is between IC), first A much farther from wing, period lower than on the other die. Compare Grant Pierce 379.”

Breen’s description does not match this reverse. Also, his notation “Compare Grant Pierce 379” is illogical as that lot was a 1915 Buffalo nickel. There was no 1834 With Motto half eagle in that auction. Although Dannreuther writes: “Breen seems to identify this variety in his supplement to his monograph series,” the actual discoverer of the variety should be recorded as Harry W. Bass, Jr., who received communication from Andrew W. Pollock, III about the upcoming (at the time) appearance in the Greenwald and Jackson sale in 1995.

Throughout the series of early gold coins produced at the Philadelphia Mint from 1795 to 1834, prior to introduction of the Classic Head gold pieces, there are six unique varieties among the 207 die marriages that John Dannreuther describes in *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties, A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*. Those six unique varieties are all found in the half eagle series: 1795 BD-13, 1797 BD-4, 1797 BD-5, 1797 BD-6, 1828/7 BD-2, and 1834 BD-4. Harry Wesley Bass, Jr. owned two of those six varieties, the 1797 BD-4 half eagle and the present 1834 BD-4 half eagle. Two others, the 1797 BD-5 and 1797 BD-6, are held in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. The other two varieties, the 1795 BD-13 and 1828/7 BD-2, along with two recent variety discoveries that are also unique, 1819 BD-3 and 1825/4/1 BD-3, are held in a single private collection.

This example comes with a story. In 1995, this cataloger traveled to Dallas to meet with the widow of collector Irving Greenwald who purchased the coin from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries. The present piece was part of the collection that Mrs. Greenwald consigned for auction. The buyer, of course, was Harry Bass. In 1998, this cataloger again traveled to Dallas as part of the team that received the Bass Collection, and again worked with the present coin. On both occasions, the meetings took place in the *same* bank vault.

Discussing this variety in the Bass Collection, Dannreuther writes:

“It is ironic, poignant, and a fitting tribute to the legacy of Harry Wesley Bass, Jr. that the final variety of half eagles, his favorite early gold denomination, is unique and is a member of the Bass collection. Bass was a unique numismatist and his collecting passion for early gold was unsurpassed in the annals of numismatics.”

In addition to its important status as a unique die variety in the early half eagle series, the condition of this piece is also remarkable. Both sides are sharply struck with brilliant, highly lustrous green-gold surfaces. The few minor abrasions are inconsequential. This piece is one of the finest surviving 1834 With Motto half eagles of any variety. PCGS has certified 12 Mint State 1834 Plain 4 half eagles in grades from MS62 to MS64, and they have certified 11 Mint State 1834 Crosslet 4 half eagles in grades from MS61 to MS64+, including this example that is one of the two MS64+ submissions (11/22).

Ex: Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, described and illustrated in *Rare Coin Review* #30; *Greenwald and Jackson Collections* (Bowers and Merena, 9/1995), lot 1400, \$58,300.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 519958 Base PCGS# 8161

PROOF EARLY HALF EAGLE

1825/1 BD-1 Half Eagle, PR62
Proof Obverse, Mint State Reverse
One of Two Privately Held Proofs



9052 1825/Partial 4 PR62 PCGS. BD-1, R.8 as a Proof. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/a with no apparent die classing, cracks, or signs of lapping on either side. The obverse die was used only for this variety and the reverse die reappears on BD-2. The 1825/4 BD-1 half eagle has traditionally carried the nomenclature of 1825/1. However, following Walter Breen's speculation, John Dannreuther carefully studied the variety and concluded that the original digit was a 4. He writes:

"Comparison with the obvious 1825/4 overdate variety to follow (BD-2), the upright previously considered a 1 likely is a partially effaced 4. The part of the foot visible at the lower right of the 5 seems to be the foot of a 4. Another feature of this die that lends credence to this theory is the angle of the supposed 1. The angle of the original digit is exactly like the 4 on both the 1824 and 1825/4 obverse. It leans further left than the 1 on the 1821 die."

The *Guide Book* has renamed this the "1825, 5 Over Partial 4" to distinguish between this variety and the extremely rare "1825, 5 Over 4" variety with just two known examples. Saul Teichman has expanded the description to "1825/4/1." While Ron Guth's roster that is presented below shows three proofs, there are also about 20 circulation strikes known.

This example from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection is a one-sided proof with the obverse showing full proof characteristics, and the reverse showing no proof attributes. While there are those in the numismatic field that suggest one-sided proofs are impossible, this coin and several other early proof half eagles suggest otherwise. There are one-sided proofs of other denominations known as well. The obverse die was highly polished and one side of the planchet was specially prepared to receive the obverse die impression. That combination of procedures is not coincidental. This piece and the other proof 1825/4 half eagles were carefully and specially produced at the Mint.

Less than a dozen proofs exist for this design including coinage dates from 1820 to 1829. The list of proofs begins with the 1820 that is offered in this same sale. PCGS grades that coin Mint State while others consider the coin to be a proof. Two proofs of 1821 are known, including one in the Smithsonian Institution and the other example that appeared in part one of the Bass Collection. Three proofs of the 1825 Over Partial 4 half eagle, including the present piece and another example in the Smithsonian Institution. The two proofs of 1826 include one in the Smithsonian Institution and another that has not been seen since the early 1950s. The Smithsonian Institution holds the only known 1828 proof half eagle. Finally, two proofs are known of the 1829 Large Planchet variety, both in private hands. One of those will appear in part three of the Bass Collection.

This piece is extraordinary. Microscopic obverse hairlines, perhaps remaining from the planchet preparation, limit the grade. That side is fully struck with strong cameo contrast. The mirrored fields are greenish-gold, while the lustrous devices are brilliant yellow. The reverse also features a gold strike with brilliant and frosty light yellow-gold surfaces. A trace of orange toning is limited to the E of UNITED. In our opinion, the reverse, if graded separately would qualify at the MS64 or MS65 level. This impressive half eagle is the third finest of three known, meaning it is the "affordable" proof 1825 Over Partial 4 half eagle.

1825/Partial 4 Proof Five Dollar, JD-1, BD-1, Breen 2-A

1. PR67 Cameo PCGS CAC. George F. Seavey Collection, acquired before 1864; Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, acquired by purchase of the Seavey Collection in 1873 (New York Stamp & Coin Co., 6/1890), lot 957; Charles Steigerwalt, sold privately; William H. Woodin Collection; Waldo C. Newcomer Collection; B. Max Mehl, sold privately; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; Col. James W. Flanagan Collection (Stack's, 3/1944), lot 1100; J.F. Bell (Jacob Shapiro) Collection (Stack's, 12/1944), lot 346; H.R. Lee Collection (Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. duplicates) (Stack's, 10/1947), lot 1243; Stack's, sold privately; King Farouk (The Palace Collections of Egypt) (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 240; Sol Kaplan; Dr. John E. Wilkison Collection; Mocatta Collection (Stack's Bowers, 8/2022), lot 7160, \$4,080,000. The reappearance of this coin in 2022 upended the provenance listing for the Bass coin (#3 below), which had been attached previously to this example.

2. PR67 (grade per Jeff Garrett). Mint Cabinet Collection, presumably transferred from Adam Eckfeldt in 1838; National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (ID #1985.0441.0199).

3. PR62 PCGS. Stanley Kesselman, sold privately on 12/18/1970; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3147). **The present coin.** Note: The PR63 Eliasberg example (lot 381 in the 1982 sale) reappeared in the D. Brent Pogue sale of 2016 as a PCGS MS64. Dannreuther noted in his book on proof gold coinage that the consensus of opinion at the 1982 sale was that the coin was not a proof.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 8145

CLASSIC HALF EAGLES

1834 Classic Head Half Eagle, Unc Details
Plain 4, Block 8, HM-2



- 9053** 1834 Plain 4, HM-2, R.4 — Cleaned — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. As usually seen on the HM-2 variety, a prominent radial die crack splits the distance between stars 6 and 7, then continues through the hair and BE of LIBERTY. A reverse die crack travels along the base of NITED in UNITED. Much reflectivity remains in the fields of this lightly cleaned coin. Die polish lines exist alongside some light hairlines, although the most obvious evidence of cleaning is a small, dull patch adjoining Liberty's chin, extending to star 1. Brief central weakness at the face and neck curls shows related weakness along the left (facing) wing/shield junction. Light-orange accents decorate the pleasing, lemon-gold surfaces.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

1834 Classic Half Eagle, AU Sharpness
Plain 4, the HM-3 Dies



- 9054** 1834 Plain 4, HM-3, R.2 — Test Cut — PCGS Genuine. AU Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The HM-3 die marriage comprises more than 25% of the surviving 1834 Classic half eagles. This lightly abraded example displays About Uncirculated sharpness, with a test cut on the obverse rim at 1 o'clock and another cut — shallower, but longer — at 2 o'clock on the rim. The date numerals are well-centered and about evenly spaced. Traces of mint luster remain at the margins and around the devices, which show minor wear at the highest points.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# E2KE, PCGS# 765193 Base PCGS# 8171

1834 Classic Head Half Eagle, MS64
Plain 4, HM-3, Strong Detail
Late Die State



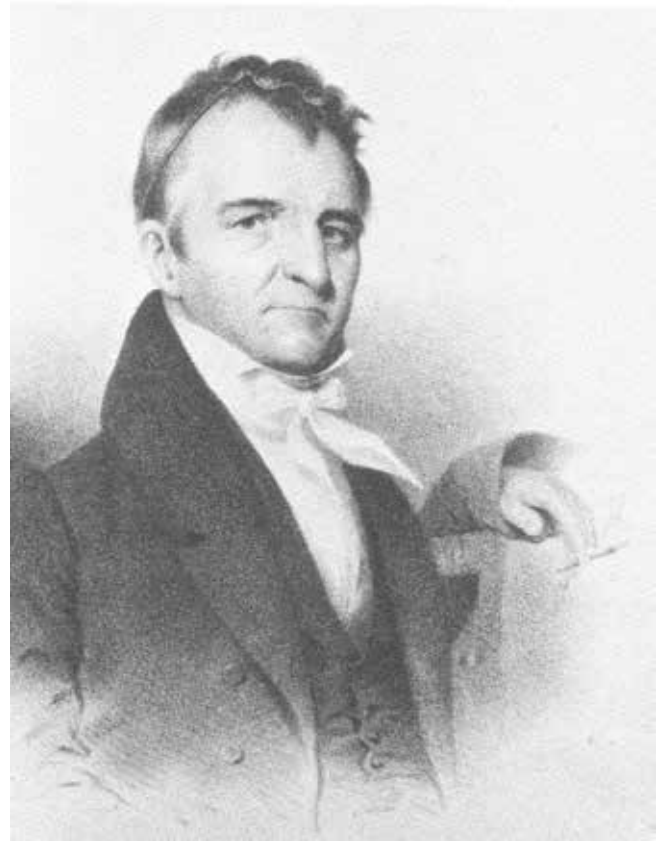
- 9055** 1834 Plain 4, HM-3, R.2, MS64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The smooth and satiny surfaces are softly lustrous throughout both sides of this near-Gem HM-3 half eagle. Struck from a late die state, the coin displays two lengthy obverse die cracks including a distinctive crack running vertically from Liberty's forehead through the eye, past the mouth, and ending at the chin. (Harry Bass called this the "eye-cheek" crack.) A second die crack runs north from the rim midway between 4 in the date and star 13, across Liberty's hair. The Haynor-McCloskey reference suggests only one in five HM-3 examples exhibit this late die state. While the variety comes well-struck, the advanced die state translates to slight weakness at a few high points of Liberty's curls. The fields and devices show only faint grazes, microscopic marks, and no serious abrasions.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# E2KE, PCGS# 765193 Base PCGS# 8171

1834 Classic Five Dollar, Unc Details
Plain 4, HM-7



- 9056** 1834 Plain 4, HM-7, R.3 — Graffiti — PCGS Genuine. Unc Details. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Only about 12% of 1934 Classic half eagles feature the HM-7 die marriage. The obverse is in its third use, known for its triple-punched 4 in the date. The reverse die shows the bottom two arrowheads joined by a die crack. This coin has an "X" inscribed near star 6, with some adjacent pin scratches. Faint hairlines are seen throughout the otherwise reflective fields. Mint State sharpness remains on the devices, while light-orange accents grace the medium green-gold coloration. *From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.* NGC ID# E2KE, PCGS# 765197 Base PCGS# 8171



Engraver William Kneass

PROOF LIBERTY HALF EAGLE

1857 Half Eagle, PR66 Cameo
The Finer of Two Known Examples
Ex: Ten Eyck-Clapp-Eliasberg



9057 1857 PR66 Cameo PCGS. JD-1, R.8. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. History, rarity, and condition all contribute to the appeal of the coins we collect. Usually, some degree of compromise is required the purchasing decisions we make, like sacrificing rarity for quality or vice versa. The coin offered here, a Premium Gem proof 1857 half eagle, makes compromise unnecessary.

Historical Context

The Philadelphia Mint struck 98,188 half eagles for circulation in 1857. That represented the lowest production total in the series dating back to 1842. Five dollar gold production rose through the 1840s and early 1850s before starting to come back down midway through the decade. By that time, output of gold coinage had shifted toward the double eagles introduced in 1850. The opening of the San Francisco Mint in 1854 further facilitated twenty dollar production at the expense of other denominations; gold no longer had to be shipped East in such massive quantities.

Proof coinage was an entirely different matter. Annual production of master coins, as they were called then, remained stable and small. Fewer than a half dozen Liberty Head half eagles were struck in proof format on a yearly basis from the series' inception in 1839 through the end of the 1850s. At that time, circumstances changes materially, with Melter and Refiner James Curtis Booth reporting to Mint Director James Ross Snowden in a letter dated December 17, 1859:

"There is a growing taste for collecting coins, evidenced by the demand this year for 800 sets of silver Master-Coins & 80 sets of the gold & by the demand for specimens of our past coinage whether gold, silver, or copper. The desire for collecting coins, is attended by an indirect improvement in the public taste for the Finest Arts, & by the development of veneration for the past, without being necessarily accompanied by objectionable features."

The explosion in interest in numismatics in this country happened suddenly, at least if one goes by Mint records regarding proof production. Perhaps there was a realization that proofs could be purchased at no additional cost, encouraging speculation. All that said, proof mintages remained minuscule through 1858.

Rarity of the 1857 Proof Half Eagle

Writing in *United States Proof Coinage, Volume IV: Gold, Part II* (2018), John Dannreuther estimates that four 1857 half eagles were struck in proof format. He cites two examples extant, as did Walter Breen in his 1988 *Complete Encyclopedia*. Surprisingly, the issue is missing in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Each of the known examples found their way into the collection of Harry W. Bass, Jr.

The first coin on the roster below, the one offered here, was purchased out of a 1985 Superior sale. It had appeared three years prior as part of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection of United States gold coins. Mr. Eliasberg, who famously assembled the most complete collection of U.S. coins ever put together, obtained the coin as part of the John H. Clapp Collection, which he purchased in its entirety in 1942. The coin resided in the Clapp holdings from 1922 through its 1942 dispersal. Its earliest known sale has been traced back to the 1922 James Ten Eyck Collection, sold by B. Max Mehl. The Ten Eyck-Clapp-Eliasberg-Bass coin was retained as part of the Core Collection and eventually put on long-term loan for public exhibition at the ANA Money Museum, visible to but out of the reach of collectors.

The second known 1857 proof half eagle has been traced back to a 1978 Stack's sale. It was purchased by Harry Bass through Stanley Kesselman. The coin, then the only one in private hands with the primary Bass example impounded, was sold by Bowers and Merena in 2000. We handled it in 2007 as PR65 Cameo NGC. It realized \$230,000 and has not made a public appearance (that we know of) in the 15 years since it was last offered.

Physical Description

The present 1857 proof half eagle is the finest of the two known examples. B. Max Mehl described it in 1922 as a "Perfect brilliant proof. Extremely rare in proof condition. This specimen is perfect in every [sic] respect." The Eliasberg cataloger called it "Virtual perfection in a half eagle. A glittering cameo coin. Superb."

Indeed, the coin is superb. Strike definition is pinpoint sharp throughout thickly frosted devices. Those raised elements stand out dramatically against the watery, reflective fields. A small, circular planchet void right of the date is one of the few apparent pedigree markers. Rich yellow-gold surfaces showcase splashes of coppery-orange accents.

Roster of Proof 1857 Half Eagles

1. PR66 Cameo PCGS. James Ten Eyck Collection (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 223; John H. Clapp Collection (1942); Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; Eliasberg Estate (1976-1982); United States Gold Coin Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 482; Auction '85 (Superior Galleries, 7/1985), lot 948; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection. **The present coin.**

2. PR65 Ultra Cameo NGC. Spring Sale (Stack's, 4/1978), lot 866; Stanley Kesselman; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (Bowers and Merena, 11/2000), lot 462; Kevin Lipton; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 3565, realized \$230,000.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 28BS, PCGS# 88447

EARLY EAGLES

1795 Capped Bust Right Eagle, MS64
Rare 9 Leaves Guide Book Variety, BD-3
Single-Finest Certified Example



9058 1795 9 Leaves, BD-3, R.6, MS64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State d/b. The 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle, with the 9 Leaves reverse, is a landmark rarity in the early U.S. gold series. It is the rarest and most sought-after of the Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle die varieties, a coin John Dannreuther dubbed “the King of the Small Eagle type.” PCGS CoinFacts estimates the surviving population at 18-22 examples in all grades, while John Dannreuther provides a similar estimate of 20-22 specimens extant. PCGS and NGC have combined to certify 28 examples between them, almost certainly including a number of resubmissions and crossovers (11/22). Heritage Auctions is privileged to present the finest-known example of this important early gold rarity in its first confirmed auction appearance.

Striking the Coins

The Philadelphia Mint struck gold coinage for the first time in 1795, after all difficulties with bonding the Chief Coiner and Assayer had been resolved, and a sufficient amount of bullion had been deposited. There was more demand for half eagles in international transactions, so the Mint struck them first, with the first delivery taking place on July 31. By September, the Mint was ready to strike eagles, and the first delivery of 1,097 eagles took place on September 22. Smaller deliveries continued throughout the year, but only 2,795 Capped Bust Right eagles were actually struck in 1795. Producing working dies was both expensive and time consuming during this era, so the Mint continued to use any dies for coinage as long as they remained serviceable, regardless of the calendar year. Accordingly, the accepted mintage figure for the 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle (5,583 pieces) includes all the ten dollar coins delivered up to March 30, 1796. Numismatists agree that any coins struck before June 1796 must have been dated 1795, because all the 1796-dated coins exhibit 16 stars on the obverse. The 16th star was added to celebrate the admission of Tennessee to the Union, on June 1, 1796.

Five die varieties are known for the 1795 eagle, four with 13 leaves on the branch the eagle stands on, and a single variety with nine leaves. This coin represents the elusive BD-3 variety, with the celebrated 9 Leaves reverse. Based on delivery records and the number of survivors, John Dannreuther estimates the BD-3 dies were used to strike between 210 and 500 examples of the reported mintage, making the BD-3 the rarest Small Eagle variety known to collectors today. The obverse die was also used to produce the BD-2 and BD-5 varieties of 1795, but this was the only use of the distinctive reverse die.

Regarding the 9 Leaves reverse, John Dannreuther notes:

“It is not known whether the 9 leaves on the branch indicate an experiment or a die cutting error, but the fact that the reverse was changed to 11 leaves for 1796 and 1797 indicates it was an intentional experiment. Perhaps the arrangement of 13 leaves was considered too crowded and grouping of 9 leaves was too sparse, leading to the introduction of 11 leaves on the branch in 1796.”

An Enigmatic Issue

The 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle has been a favorite issue with collectors since the earliest days of the hobby, but the study of die varieties only developed much later. Although the 1795 9 Leaves eagle is a widely popular, sought-after variety today, it was largely unrecognized by students of the series until relatively recent times. John Colvin Randall identified four varieties of 1795-dated eagles by 1885, but he did not mention the 9 Leaves reverse in the catalog of his collection when it was sold by W. Elliot Woodward in June of 1885. Likewise, Silas Wodell exhibited three varieties of the 1795 eagle at the 1914 ANS Exhibition, but the BD-3 variety was not represented. The first auction appearance we can positively identify as a BD-3 is lot 356 of the Thompson and Ely Collections (Henry Chapman, 5/1915):

“1795 Small stars. R. End of branch far from A and end of leaf over center of U; die broken at first T in STATES. Fine. Rare.”

Strangely, Chapman missed the more distinctive nine leaves characteristic, but the position of the leaf and the die break through the T are sufficient to identify the rare BD-3 variety. Unfortunately, Chapman’s description attracted little notice at the time, and the elusive BD-3 continued to go unrecognized.

The first numismatist to publish a description of the variety was Edgar Adams, in his article in the May 1934 edition of *The Coin Collector’s Journal*:

“5-Same as No. 1. Rev. End of stem does not touch or come very close to ‘A’. End of one leaf touches center of ‘U’. Nine distinct leaves in branch. There is a die defect at the end of the second leaf.”

Unfortunately, Adams misremembered the owner of the discovery coin, as there was no example of the BD-3 listed in the Clapp notebook. The coin Adams referred to was almost certainly the example from the fabulous collections of H.O. Granberg and William Woodin, which was sold to Waldo Newcomer in 1926, and had probably passed to “Colonel” E.H.R. Green, via B. Max Mehl, by the time Adams wrote his article. As collector awareness grew, more examples emerged over the years, but the pace was decidedly slow. The first auction description to specifically mention the 9 Leaves variety was lot 61 of the Cicero Collection (New Netherlands, 12/1960):

“1795. Adams 5. Not in Clapp; Newcomer 439. Rarity 8. Eagle standing on branch with nine leaves (regular has THIRTEEN). Extremely Fine, weak in centers, and with many adjustment marks; some chips out of planchet (as made) on both sides. Rim dent at T of UNITED. A few small pit-like planchet defects. The first one we have seen and only the second we have heard of. Of extreme desirability as a type coin; potentially a \$2,000 item! Plate.

“Probably included with the 911 delivered November 27, 1795, the last coinage of the year. The other four varieties have 13 leaves in the branch; the 1796-7 have 11. The other specimen known to us is the Newcomer coin, illustrated by Adams in the 1934 *Coin Collector’s Journal*, and it has dropped out of sight. It was VF and cost Newcomer \$100, which was then at least double the ordinary price. To account for the rarity of this variety is difficult. Probably the reverse die breaks - at next to right leaf on branch, and at first T in STATES - advanced rapidly, rendering the die useless. At least fifty times rarer than the regular type of this year, which is now at least a \$600 coin EF; therefore our estimate is not unreasonable.”

The latest thinking on the 9 Leaves issue places its striking date in early 1796, but the New Netherlands description accurately depicts the state of knowledge about the issue at the time. Research continued to advance slowly and, as late as 1980, gold specialist David Akers commented that the issue “has never received any publicity.” Of course, the variety enjoys a wide celebrity today, with prominent mention in the *Guide Book* and the Bass-Dannreuther series reference. There is no danger of the BD-3 being overlooked in any present day public offering.

The Present Coin: History and Physical Description

Since the 9 Leaves variety was not recognized until recent times, early catalogers seldom mentioned it in lot descriptions, and image quality in 1960s-era catalogs makes plate matching difficult. As a result, we have not been able to trace the history of the present coin before Harry Bass purchased it privately from Mike Brownlee in 1971. Indeed, it is possible that the coin surfaced in some European holding at that time, and this may be its first public offering. It has definitely been off the market for the last 51 years. This coin has been exhibited, along with the rest of the Harry Bass Core Collection, at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, at the headquarters of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, since 2001.

This delightful Choice specimen exhibits a bold strike for the issue, with much interior detail evident on Liberty's hair and cap, but just a touch of the typical softness shows in the centers. Struck from a late state of the dies, the obverse shows attenuated outer points on stars 1, 10, 11, and 15, due to lapping. The reverse die was heavily lapped, and shows some minor loss of detail on the eagle's breast and the juncture of the eagle's tail with the leg. There is a diagnostic die break at the tip of the second leaf, and another from the rim, through the first T in STATES. Another, smaller die crack is evident at the lower right foot of the first A in AMERICA. The medium yellow-gold surfaces radiate vibrant mint luster, mixed with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A tiny nick under the 7 in the date is the only mark of note. Overall eye appeal is terrific. As the finest-known example of this sought-after early gold rarity, Registry Set enthusiasts will find no satisfactory replacement for this coin once it crosses the auction block. The limited auction history of this coin suggests it may be decades before it becomes available again. Discerning collectors will bid accordingly. The 1795 9 Leaves eagle is listed among the *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*. This coin is pictured on PCGS CoinFacts. Population (for the variety): 1 in 64, 0 finer (11/22).

Condition Census for the 1795 9 Leaves Eagle, BD-3, Taraszka-3, Breen 4-C (the only die pair with 9 Leaves)

Thanks to Ron Guth and the Numismatic Detective Agency for compiling this Census.

1. **MS64 PCGS.** Mike Brownlee (Goliad Corporation); sold privately to Harry Bass on 12/16/1971; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3171). **The present coin.**
2. **MS63+ PCGS CAC.** Auction '89 (Superior, 8/1989), lot 908; RARCOA (as agent?); D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part II (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 9/2015), lot 2091, realized \$1,057,500; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part VII (Heritage, 1/2022), lot 3793, realized \$3,360,000.
3. **MS63 PCGS.** “... from the Estate of an old Philadelphia family” (Christie's, 9/1990), lot 435, realized \$115,500; Mid-Winter ANA Signature (Heritage, 3/1998), lot 6460, realized \$184,000; ANA Money Show Auction (Superior, 3/2001), lot 853, not sold; Classics Sale (American Numismatic Rarities, 9/2003), lot 539, not sold.
4. **MS63 PCGS.** Mike Brownlee; May Auction (Superior, 5/1995), lot 3684, not sold; Anthony J. Taraszka Collection (Stack's Bowers, 8/2019), lot 4004, realized \$630,000; D.L. Hansen Collection.
5. **MS61 PCGS.** Magnolia Collection (Spink/Smythe, 5/2011), lot 1, realized \$379,500.
6. **MS61 NGC.** Rarities Sale (Bowers and Merena, 1/2005), lot 1593, realized \$184,000; Ohringer Family Trust Holdings, Part II (Goldberg Auctions, 9/2008), lot 1270, realized \$224,250; Philadelphia Signature (Heritage, 8/2012), lot 5381, realized \$282,000; Tangible Investments (Sil DiGenova), offered on Collectors Corner on 12/13/2017 for \$435,000.
7. **MS60 PCGS OGH.** H.O. Granberg Collection; William Woodin Collection; Waldo C. Newcomer Collection; Dr. Angus Black Collection (New Netherlands, 6/1970), lot 483, realized \$2,400; Auction '90 (David Akers, 8/1990), lot 1916, realized \$77,000; Michael Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 152, realized \$63,250; Benson II Collection (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2002), lot 2054, realized \$103,500; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2004), lot 3052, realized \$161,000.
8. **MS60 Uncertified.** Jascha Heifetz Collection (Superior, 10/1989), lot 4621, realized \$137,500.
9. **AU58 PCGS.** Bowers and Merena, 2/2005, lot 1593, realized \$184,000.
10. **AU58 NGC.** Bergstrom and Husky Collections (Stack's, 6/2008), lot 2091, realized \$207,000; Chicago ANA (Stack's Bowers, 8/2011), lot 7705, realized \$218,500.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 45714 Base PCGS# 8552

1797 Small Eagle Ten Dollar, AU58+
BD-1, Rare Early Die State
Strong and Reflective



9059 1797 Small Eagle, BD-1, R.5, AU58+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/b. This is the only 1797 Small Eagle variety for the year. The obverse features a curious star arrangement with 12 left and four right, creating a decidedly asymmetric appearance. In fact, star 1 overlaps the first 1 in the date. Designated as BD-1, John Dannreuther estimates that as few as 1,250 to as many as 3,615 examples of this variety were struck. The reason for the discrepancy between the lower estimated mintage and the official reported mintage is that some 1796 eagles were struck with this reverse after it was used to strike BD-1 coins. Those 1796 coins were likely included in the mintage for 1797 Small Eagle tens. About 55 to 65 examples of this issue exist in all grades, making it rare overall if only scarce in the relative context of the larger series. By contrast, 210 to 260 1797 Large Eagle tens are believed extant, divided between three die varieties.

The PCGS *Population Report* lists 32 problem-free grading events for the 1797 BD-1 eagle. They range from XF40 to MS62 with the most frequently awarded grades being AU53 and AU55. This example from Harry Bass Core Collection is one of three in AU58, though it is the only one with a Plus designation. The Mint State population at PCGS includes one coin in MS60, two in MS61, and one in MS62 (ex: Amon Carter) (11/22).

What sets this Bass representative apart from other known examples of the 1797 Small Eagle ten dollar, aside from its exceptional condition, is its early die state without the usually-present die crack at 4:30 on the obverse. Indeed, Bass began his notes for this coin with the following remark: "Obverse: No obverse crack at 4:30!" To emphasize the point, he commented a few lines later again, "No die cracks!" Yellow-gold surfaces exhibit noticeable field reflectivity and bold strike definition on the stars, portrait, eagle, and legends. Hardly a brush of friction is present, though each side shows minor hairlines. We expect spirited bidding for this near-Mint, early die state example of the final Small Eagle issue in the Capped Bust Right ten dollar series.

Ex: Auction '81 (RARCOA, 7/1981), lot 455.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 45716 Base PCGS# 8555

1797 BD-4 Heraldic Eagle Ten, MS63
The Final Variety Struck in 1798



9060 1797 Large Eagle, BD-4, High R.4, MS63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State d/b with reverse die cracks through the R and C of AMERICA, and from the border to the tip of the eagle's tail. Two obverse die cracks through the second 7 of the date have joined to form an internal cud between the upright and serif of that digit.

The study of die states and emission sequences is an important aspect of Mint history, and an integral step in estimating mintage quantities for individual varieties. The obverse die was used for all three 1797 Heraldic Eagle varieties, and appears here in its latest die state. The reverse die of another variety, BD-3, was also used for both 1798 varieties, but is found in a later die state for its 1797 use, proving that the BD-3 and BD-4 eagles of 1797 were both struck after the 1798 eagles. John Dannreuther estimates a mintage of between 3,500 and 5,000 coins for the 1797 BD-4 eagles, with a surviving population between 90 and 110 coins.

This Select Mint State piece is stunning, exhibiting brilliant and highly lustrous yellow-gold surfaces with splashes of rose toning on the reverse. Faint hairlines and a thin obverse scratch are all that separate this piece from finest known honors. This is a coin with few peers. For all varieties, PCGS has certified 50 Mint State 1797 eagles, while NGC adds 56 Mint State submissions. Just two pieces are certified finer: one MS63+ PCGS coin (BD-2) and one MS64 NGC coin (variety unknown). PCGS Population: 7 in 63 (1 in 63+), o finer (11/22).

Ex: Goliad Corporation (3/4/1991).

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 25ZY, PCGS# 45719 Base PCGS# 8559



1798/7 BD-2 Eagle, MS62
Elusive 7x6 Stars Variety
Tied for Third Finest Known



9061 1798/7 7x6 Stars, BD-2, R.6, MS62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State b/b with obverse and reverse die cracks. The obverse has a die chip below the first star. A crack from the border extends through the lower points of the top left star into the field close to the cap. An extension of this crack or perhaps a second crack crosses Liberty's hair and ear to Liberty's cheek. Another crack from the border to the upright of the E in LIBERTY crosses the field to Liberty's cap. Other cracks in the cap are difficult to see. A delicate reverse crack joins the tops of all letters in UNITED. A second crack from the crossbar of the E in UNITED crosses the D into the field toward the wing feathers.

Advanced numismatic students spend much time studying die states as those observations are important to understanding Mint history. We know that the three 1797 Heraldic Eagle varieties are plentiful, while the two 1798 varieties are rare. Die state study allows a determination of the order that these coins were minted, and here it is not what it might seem. Both varieties of 1798/7 eagles use the same reverse die that was also used for 1797 BD-3 while all three 1797 varieties used a single obverse die. The actual order of striking for all these coins was: 1797 BD-2, 1798/7 BD-1, 1798/7 BD-2, 1797 BD-3, and 1797 BD-4.

The order of striking, also known as the emission sequence, challenges the numismatist in the determination of actual mintage figures for coins displaying the different dates. Furthermore, the mintage by die variety is impossible to determine with accuracy. The Philadelphia Mint, the only operating coinage factory prior to 1838, produced 7,974 eagles in six deliveries between January 11 and February 28, 1798. That figure is much different than the usually reported mintage of 1,742 coins dated 1798, a figure that equals the final two deliveries for the year, on warrants dated February 20 and February 28. Armed with the knowledge that 1797 BD-3 and 1797 BD-4 eagles were struck after the 1798 eagles, the 1797-dated pieces would have been struck in 1799. In the Bass-Dannreuther reference, John Dannreuther estimates the mintage of coins dated 1798 between 1,500 and 2,442 coins, including between 300 and 842 examples of this 1798 BD-2 die marriage. His 842-coin figure is not a random number pulled out of thin air, but is the number of eagles reported in records for the delivery of February 28, 1798.

Many numismatic historians, including the present cataloger, have attempted to correlate mint delivery records with varieties to determine when each die marriage was struck, and how many were struck. All attempts have failed. The correlation relies on two important factors: how many survive of each individual die variety, and what is the survival rate for each of those varieties? The number of survivors can be estimated reasonably closely for rare varieties, such as the present 1798 BD-2 eagle. Our roster presented below and compiled by the cataloger in collaboration with Ron Guth, records 17 examples with a few others that probably survive. The number of survivors for common varieties, such as the 1799 BD-10 and 1801 BD-2 eagles, is impossible to precisely determine. The other factor, survival rate for each variety, is also impossible to determine. We simply do not know what transpired more than 200 years ago to affect the number of pieces that exist today. Walter Breen was fond of explaining that varieties such as the 1795 BD-1 and 1797 BD-2 survived in higher numbers as they were the "first of their kind." Did that really happen? Did people truly save gold eagles at a time when a typical wage was less than one dollar per day?

The 1798/7 BD-2 eagle that Mr. Bass included in his collection is tied for the third finest known, while the finest known is permanently in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. The second finest known is only marginally finer than the Bass coin. While the central details of this example are a trifle weak, the strike is nicely centered with full, even borders. Both sides exhibit brilliant yellow-gold surfaces with full luster and tinges of pale orange toning. Trivial, grade-consistent marks are evident in the fields. This is an exceptional piece that will make a nice addition to the advanced early gold collection. Population: 3 in 62 (1 n 62+), 0 finer (11/22).

1798/7 Ten Dollar, 7x6 Stars, BD-2, Taraszka-10, Breen 2-A (the only 7x6 Stars variety)

1. MS63 Uncertified. National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (grade per Jeff Garrett).

2. MS62+ PCGS. Illustrated at PCGS Coin Facts. Ex: William F. Gable Collection (S.H. Chapman, 5/1914), lot 207. Later provenance is unknown.

3. MS62 PCGS. "Colonel" E.H.R. Green Collection; King Farouk Collection (B. Max Mehl, 3/1948), lot 273, \$1,050; Grant Pierce & Sons (Stack's, 5/1965), lot 1436; James and Margaret Carter Collection (Stack's, 1/1986), lot 179; Dr. Juan Suros Collection (Superior, 2/1999), lot 251, \$189,750; Rarities Sale (Bowers and Merena, 1/2003), lot 709, \$178,250; Baltimore ANA (Bowers and Merena, 7/2003), lot 4040, \$276,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2004), lot 3057, \$218,500.

4. MS62 PCGS. RARCOA, sold privately on 2/3/1975; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 3181). **The present coin.**

5. MS61 PCGS. Harold P. Newlin Collection, sold privately on 10/31/1884; T. Harrison Garrett Collection; Robert Garrett Collection; John Work Garrett Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1980), lot 1660, \$120,000; D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part II (Stack's Bowers & Sotheby's, 9/2015), lot 2097, \$705,000.

6. MS60 Uncertified. National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (grade per Jeff Garrett).

7. AU58 PCGS. ANA Money Show (Superior, 3/2001), lot 858, not sold.

8. AU58 PCGS. David-Graves Collection (Stack's, 4/1954), lot 910; Norweb Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 3/1988), lot 2138, \$55,000; New Orleans Collection (Heritage, 4/2015), lot 5384, \$329,000.

9. AU58 PCGS. "Rutherford" in 3/1897; John M. Clapp Collection; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 650, \$50,600; Stack's (1/1987), lot 705; Rarities Sale (Stack's Bowers, 8/2016), lot 3281, \$352,500.

10. **AU58 PCGS.** “Colonel” E.H.R. Green Collection; Stack’s, sold privately in 1945; James A. Stack, Sr. Collection (Stack’s, 3/1995), lot 555, \$73,700; Anthony J. Taraszka Collection (Stack’s Bowers, 8/2019), lot 4015, \$384,000; Tyrant Collection (Coin 10, displayed at the 2/2020 Long Beach Expo).
11. **AU55 NGC** 641283-002. Byron Reed Collection (Spink America, 10/1996), lot 152; Long Beach Connoisseur (Bowers and Merena, 8/1999), lot 422; The Cincinnati Collection (FUN Signature, Heritage, 1/2005), lot 8820.
12. **AU50 PCGS.** Michael Keston Collection (Superior, 1/1996), lot 158; Richmond Collection (David Lawrence Rare Coins, 7/2004), lot 2006; Dr. James A. Ferrendelli Collection (Stack’s Bowers, 8/2014), lot 11109.
13. **AU50.** Amon G. Carter, Jr. Family Collection (Stack’s, 1/1984), lot 733.
14. **AU.** Wolfson Collection (Stack’s, 10/1962), lot 622; Dallas Bank Collection (Sotheby’s/Stack’s, 10/2001), lot 380.
15. **AU.** Stack’s (6/1993), lot 1348.
16. **AU Damaged PCGS Genuine** 14509750. Rare Coin Auction (Superior, 2/1973), lot 616; Bowers and Ruddy (2/1974), lot 774; Fairfield Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1977), lot 1788; Auction ‘90 (Superior, 8/1990), lot 1343; Bowers and Merena (5/1993), lot 677; Goldberg Auctions (6/2000), lot 1434; Heritage (8/2009), lot 1287; Heritage (1/2013), lot 5900.
17. **Fine 15 PCGS.** Bowers and Merena (11/1993), lot 1513; Stack’s (8/2007), lot 3296; Harvey B. Jacobson Collection (Stack’s Bowers, 11/2022), lot 4012.

Additional Appearances

The following entries are probably examples recorded above, but the plates, if there are any, are not clear enough to positively identify those pieces. There are undoubtedly others that are not recorded above or here.

- A. Colonel Mendes I. Cohen Collection (Edward Cogan, 10/1875). Plated.
- B. J.C. Randall Collection (W. Elliot Woodward, 9/1885), lot 983. Plated.
- C. Lorin G. Parmelee; John G. Mills (S.H. & H. Chapman, 4/1904), lot 519. Plated.
- D. George H. Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, 6/1912), lot 2293. Plated.
- E. James Kelly (11/1947), lot 1405. Not plated.
- F. Superior (2/1991), lot 2852. Cataloged as 7x6 stars, but the image is 9x4 stars.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 45721 Base PCGS# 8561

1799 BD-6 Eagle, MS65
Small Obverse Stars



9062 1799 Small Obverse Stars, BD-6, R.5, MS65 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State e/b. The obverse has extensive die cracks, especially through the top points of star 8, down to the back edge of the cap, reaching the scarf. The reverse has rust lumps left of the U in UNITED. The obverse die appears here in its final use following BD-4 and BD-5, and the reverse appears in its earliest use before reappearing on BD-7.

John Dannreuther places this variety in a fourth-place tie for the most plentiful 1799 varieties. Only two varieties, BD-7 and BD-10, are seen with regularity. Next is BD-8 with an estimate of 45 to 55 known, followed by this variety and BD-2, each with an estimated 35 to 45 surviving examples. Five other varieties have lower survival estimates.

An extraordinary Gem, this early eagle features frosty and highly lustrous yellow-gold surfaces with splashes of faint coppery-orange toning. The surfaces are exquisite and the eye appeal is first-rate.

This example is the finest BD-6 eagle known to us, and it ranks high among 1799 eagles of all varieties. Harry W. Bass, Jr. acquired two examples of the 1799 BD-6 die pair, and the other piece that he purchased from Lester Merkin's October 1969 auction was PCGS graded AU58 when it appeared in the May 2000 Bowers and Merena auction of his duplicates. This impressive piece will make a nice addition to a type set, a *Guide Book* variety collection, or a specialized gold collection such as the cabinet that Mr. Bass formed. PCGS Population (for all Small Obverse Stars varieties): 4 in 65 (1 in 65+), 0 finer (11/22).

Ex: Massachusetts Historical Society Auction (*Stack's*, 10/1970), lot 826.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 45729 Base PCGS# 98562

1803 BD-1 Eagle, MS63
Small Reverse Stars
The First 1803 Die Marriage



9063 1803 Small Reverse Stars, BD-1, High R.5, MS63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Bass-Dannreuther Die State a/a showing no die cracks, clash marks, or lapping on either side. Slight die spalling or rust is evident on top of the M in AMERICA, and a short diagonal die gouge is noted between the first T and A of STATES on this example, as on all examples of this reverse. That die gouge provides immediate confirmation of the variety.

The coinage of 1803 eagles was accomplished with a single obverse die that was paired with six reverse dies. One of those reverse dies was previously used in 1801, and another continued in use with the 1804-dated obverse. Mint records show a production of 15,017 eagles in 1803 followed by 3,757 pieces in 1804. Based on the estimated number of pieces known for each coinage date, 354 for 1803 and 90 for 1804 (using the mid-point of John Dannreuther's population estimates), the survival rates are nearly identical for the two years (2.35% for 1803 and 2.40% for 1804). That data suggests that the reported mintage and the number produced that actually display those two years on the coins is likely congruent. The order of rarity for the six 1803 varieties starting with the most available variety, again based on Dannreuther's estimates, is: BD-3, BD-5, BD-1, BD-4, BD-2, and BD-6. However, only BD-3 and BD-5 are typically available.

The present piece represents the first of two major variations for the 1803 eagles, having small stars on the reverse. That type appears on BD-1, 2, 3, and 4. The later pieces attributed as BD-5 and BD-6 have large stars on the reverse.

This fully lustrous Select Mint State eagle displays vibrant green-gold surfaces with lovely peripheral reddish-orange toning on the reverse. The pleasing surfaces show only trivial hairlines and marks that are consistent with the grade. Population for all 1803 varieties: 23 in 63 (1 in 63+), 16 finer.

Ex: RARCOA (*privately*, 2/3/1975).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 45735 Base PCGS# 8565



1843

PROOF LIBERTY EAGLE

1843 Liberty Eagle, PR64+ Deep Cameo
The Finest of Six Examples Minted and Extant
From a Set Presented to President Tyler



9064 1843 PR64+ Deep Cameo PCGS. JD-1, High R.7. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Christian Gobrecht's Liberty Head design was introduced for ten dollar gold production in 1838 — the first year eagles were struck after a 34-year hiatus. Although his portrait of Liberty was modified slightly in 1839, the design would go on to dominate the eagles of the 19th and early 20th centuries, coming to an end in 1907. Output ebbed and flowed throughout that 69-year period, reaching a high of 3.8 million coins in 1881 and a low of just 100 pieces in 1875. Proofs were offered publicly from 1859 through the end of the series. Mintages during that period generally ranged from 30 to 70 specimens per year with a few exceptions (higher and lower). Prior to 1859, proofs were available on demand at no extra charge, although there were only a handful of collectors at the time interested in setting aside high-denomination gold coinage for numismatic purposes.

The 1843 Liberty Eagles

A total of 75,462 ten dollar gold pieces were struck for circulation at the Philadelphia Mint in 1843. Proofs were limited to just six pieces and, remarkably, all six are traced, though one was stolen in a brazen 2007 robbery and has not been seen since (seen coin #3 on the roster below). Writing in *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold, Part II* (2018), John Dannreuther writes:

"The year 1843 saw several complete Proof sets including the gold pass beyond the doors of the Mint. The years 1840 through 1842 have no complete Proofs sets reported except those in the NNC, so the year 1843 starts a trend. Two Proof sets were ordered by President John Tyler and special Moroccan leather cases were made to order."

One of those was the stolen set mentioned above, while the other set (ex: Pittman), which had been reassembled, was dispersed. Two of the 1843 proof eagles are permanently held in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (one having been donated by Josiah K. Lilly in 1968), leaving four in private hands, three of which are accounted for. Numbers like that make the 1843 proof ten a fabulous rarity in the grand scheme of United States numismatics. However, within the context of similar issues of this denomination from the 1840s, this one is relatively "common," as Dannreuther puts it. Take that for what it is.

The Bass Core Collection Example

This incredible proof rarity enjoys an unbroken pedigree chain that dates back to 1843 and formed part of one of the two complete sets ordered by President John Tyler. Its first auction appearance in 1880 is believed to be the first for any 1843 proof eagle. It was sold as part of a complete set, case included, where cataloger Ed Frossard noted:

"1843. Ten five, two and a half dollars, *gold*; dollar, half, quarter, dime and half dime, *silver*; cent and half cent, *copper*. Fine proof set in velvet-lined morocco case. A present of John Tyler, President of the United States, to his ward, Mrs. Octavia McMurray. Extremely desirable set."

It next appeared as part of the Richard B. Winsor Collection offered by S.H. and Henry Chapman in 1895. They described it as follows:

"1843 Complete set of all the coins of this year. Gold \$10, \$5, \$2 ½. Silver, dollar, ½, ¼, 1/10, 1/20 cent 1842 obverse and reverse. ½ cent original. The silver yellowed, the copper steel and red color. In the original case. Said to have been presented by President Tyler. Cost Mr. Winsor \$100 at a sale about 15 years ago. Unique."

The set sold for \$145 to Peter Mougey, whose collection was subsequently purchased in its entirety by William H. Woodin. Woodin broke the set up, keeping the three gold pieces for himself. This 1843 proof eagle was sold individually as part of Thomas Elder's March 1911 sale of the Woodin Collection. It was described as a "Brilliant proof. Almost unique. A great rarity." The coin eventually passed through the hands of Lyman Low, Virgil Brand, and others before it showed up once more as part of Superior's sale of the Miguel Munoz Collection, Part I. The auction catalog stated:

"Brilliant Proof 60 to 65. A choice proof specimen with frosted devices set against a brilliant background, giving this coin a gorgeous cameo effect. A few scattered hairlines and lint marks, many of which were present on the planchet during striking. One of only 4 or 5 known specimens. This was the Virgil Brand specimen, sold by Kreisberg and Schulman in their March 1965 sale."

Harry W. Bass, Jr. purchased the coin for \$39,000. It has since remained off the market for nearly 45 years, and from 2001 until 2022 was on public display at the ANA Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In preparation for our sales of the Bass Core Collection, it was sent to PCGS for third-party certification for the first time, where it was awarded a grade of PR64+ Deep Cameo, making it the finest certified for the issue.

Physical Description

Having previously been cataloged by Ed Frossard, the Chapman Brothers, Thomas Elder, Abner Kreisberg and Hans Schulman, and the Goldbergs, Dave Bowers got his crack in 2001, writing as part of the *Bass Museum Sylloge*: “Frosty design elements and mirrored fields show traces of olive iridescence.” While perhaps a bit terse, that certainly captures the essence of this high-end near-Gem proof. Deep Cameo contrast is absolutely eye-catching and the overall production quality is flawless. There are just a handful of wispy hairlines on each side that do nothing to detract. Heavy parallel lines in the reverse field are Mint-made and should not be confused with post-production imperfections. We are delighted to present this extraordinary, well-pedigreed No Motto proof eagle for sale once again, where it is sure to find yet another home in a fine set of early proof gold or other trophy coinage.

Roster of 1843 Proof Eagles

Pedigrees for the 1843 gold proofs are notoriously difficult to compile and earlier researchers, like David Akers and John Dannreuther, did not have access to many resources on the Newman Portal today, like the Armin Brand notebooks. Thanks to John Dannreuther, Ron Guth, and Saul Teichman for their help preparing this roster. Grades are per the last auction appearance, unless a subsequent certification event is known. It is virtually certain that some coins have been submitted, or resubmitted, to the grading services since their last public offering. Grades of the Smithsonian specimens are per John Dannreuther.

1. PR64+ Deep Cameo PCGS. A coin in the complete copper, silver, and gold proof set in the original red Morocco case reportedly presented by President Tyler in 1843 to his ward, Mrs. Octavia McMurray (per Frossard); Reverend T. Wilkinson Collection (Édouard Frossard, 2/1880), lot 651; purchased at the sale by George Cogan, probably acting as agent for Richard B. Winsor, for \$100; Winsor Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 12/1895), lot 1067; purchased by Peter Mougey, bidding as “Gold”; William Woodin purchased Mougey’s collection intact, after his death in 1908, and sold the majority of the collection through Thomas Elder in 1910, but he kept the three gold coins from the 1843 proof set; Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911), lot 1207; Lyman Low, acting as agent for Virgil Brand, journal number 57065; Horace Brand; Emillio Fontani Collection (Kreisberg & Schulman, 3/1965), lot 157; Miguel Munoz Collection, Part I (Superior, 6/1978), lot 1961; Harry Bass; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection at the ANA Money Museum. **The present coin.**

2. PR64 Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. Possibly John Zug; sold to F.C.C. Boyd in 1939, per David Akers; World’s Greatest Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 1/1946), lot 648 (a proof 1843 quarter eagle and half eagle were also offered in separate lots in this auction, and in the two following sales); J.F. Bell (Jacob Shapiro); possibly 39th Mail Bid Sale (Hollinbeck-Kagin, 11/1946), lot 2271 (not sold); Memorable Collection (Numismatic Gallery, 3/1948), lot 546; John Jay Pittman; Pittman Collection, Part I (David Akers, 10/1997), lot 832, as part of a complete copper, silver, and gold proof set; Sil DiGenova and Mike Storeim; Ken Goldman (KGI) and Mark Yaffe (NGE); Blanchard & Co.; the three gold coins were reportedly sold privately by Blanchard & Company in May of 2009 for \$937,765; Joan Zieg Steinbrenner Collection / ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2019), lot 3904, realized \$480,000.

Note on the reassembled 1843 proof set: William Woodin owned a complete 1843 ten-piece copper, silver, and gold proof set in the original case after he bought Peter Mougey’s collection in 1908. He split the set, selling the silver and copper coins, with the case, along with most of the rest of Mougey’s collection, through Thomas Elder in 1910. He later sold the quarter eagle and eagle in the 1911 sale of his own gold collection, also through Elder, but retained the proof half eagle until later, and exhibited it at the 1914 ANS Exhibition. Woodin sold most of his half eagles (probably including the proof 1843) to Waldo Newcomer circa 1924. That coin probably went to “Colonel” Green, and was not included in the reassembled set. The quarter eagle went to Virgil Brand in 1911 and remained in the Brand Estate until it was sold by Armin Brand in 1943. We have not been able to trace it since. Likewise, the eagle from the original set went to Brand in 1911 and later went to Harry Bass. Someone, probably John Zug, reassembled the three-piece gold proof set before 1946, as F.C.C. Boyd had all three coins in his collection by that date, but none of the coins were from the original set. John Jay Pittman purchased the three gold proofs at the sale of the Memorable Collection, and united them with the silver and copper proofs of that date, which he purchased a few months later from Judge Joseph F. Sawicki, to reconstitute the complete 1843 proof set in the original case.

3. PR63 PCGS. A coin in the complete copper, silver, and gold proof set in the original yellow Morocco case reportedly presented by President Tyler in 1843 to an unnamed constituent; Fernand David Collection (Jacques Schulman, 3/1930), lot 112; purchased by an agent of B. Max Mehl at the Schulman sale in Amsterdam; Frank Stoddard; “Colonel” E.H.R. Green in 1932, via Mehl; Green Estate; B.G. Johnson; the set was offered to Ruth Green on 6/23/1943 for \$1,000, returned; offered again to B. Max Mehl on 8/30/1944 for \$1,000, returned; F.C.C. Boyd; purchased by B. Max Mehl; Will W. Neil; Neil Collection (Mehl, 6/1947), lot 2292; Amon Carter, Sr.; Amon Carter, Jr.; Carter Family Collection (Stack’s, 1/1984), lot 630; Daniel Drykerman (per Walter Breen); Chris Napolitano; private collector; the set was stolen at the 2007 FUN convention and has not reappeared.

Note: Walter Breen incorrectly identified this set as the one in a “New York State private collection,” meaning John Jay Pittman, but Pittman never owned this set.

4. PR64 Cameo. Mint Cabinet; National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution.

5. PR62 Cameo. Possibly “Colonel” Green or Ronnie Carr; Stack’s; Josiah K. Lilly; donated to the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution in 1968.

6. Proof. Vinchon, Paris, 1977; A-Mark; Richard Lobel; Fred Malone, per John Dannreuther.

Additional Appearance

Brilliant Proof. Hebeard Collection (H.P. Smith, 4/1883), lot 378.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 98779



LIBERTY DOUBLE EAGLE

1861-S Paquet Reverse Twenty, AU58+
Tied for Second-Finest Certified by PCGS
Important One-Year Design Subtype



9065 1861-S Paquet AU58+ PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The Paquet Reverse design made its debut in 1861, but it was struck only briefly at the San Francisco Mint, while the Philadelphia Mint's production was largely melted. No Paquet coins were struck at all by the New Orleans Mint. The story of the famous Paquet double eagle reverse is an interesting one, and only recently has knowledge coalesced into a clear picture of why this important gold type is one of the most desirable and highly valued rarities in the U.S. gold series.

Assistant Engraver Anthony C. Paquet was a Hamburg, Germany native who emigrated to the United States in October 1848. He worked in Philadelphia and New York for several years before joining the Mint's staff in October 1857. His work at the Mint included several memorable patterns and Mint medals, as well as preparing the dies for the first Congressional Medal of Honor and Indian Peace medals for Presidents Johnson and Grant. Yet, his talents were probably underutilized and his full potential remained unfulfilled. Paquet's regular U.S. coinage credits are essentially the 1861 double eagle named for him, and a less-known design modification for the 1859 half dime.

Many collectors and numismatic scholars believe Paquet's reverse die was a significant improvement to James B. Longacre's venerable double eagle design. It represents the first major design change for America's preeminent gold denomination — one that demonstrates artistry through the use of elegant letter punches subtle refinements to the eagle's central motif.

It is no small accomplishment to survive the Mint's approval process that includes patterns, test strikes, and often "resistance to change" within the Mint itself. Still, Paquet's design sailed through the process. Perhaps it was hurriedly implemented. The design's working dies were made in Philadelphia and sent to the branch mints for use in the following year's coinage. Four pairs of dies including the new reverse were shipped to the San Francisco Mint on November 7, 1860, and three reverse dies were sent to the New Orleans Mint on December 10. All dies were accompanied by the following, somewhat ominous directive:

"The reverse dies of the double eagle are from a new original die presenting a larger face for the device without changing the diameter of the piece. They will require a slight change in the milling to suit the border."

The Philadelphia Mint was ready to strike Paquet double eagles immediately following the first of the year. Problems with the milling and the Paquet reverse field proved more difficult to fix than expected. With many gold deposits on hand, Mint Director James Ross Snowden needed to strike nearly 3 million double eagles in 1861. Snowden was in the final few months of his tenure — and he had no time (nor patience) for fine-tuning the new reverse die. He telegraphed the branch mints and told them to stop production and revert back to the Longacre reverse.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Mint had seemingly solved its problems striking the coins. Some 19,250 pieces were struck and released into circulation before Snowden's telegraph message arrived.

While the Philadelphia Mint version of the Paquet Reverse twenty is one of the rarest coins in American numismatics with only two pieces known, the San Francisco Mint counterpart is more available. Perhaps as many as 100 pieces are thought to survive in all grades. However, it remains rare in high grades.

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection Coin

Until recently, there were no Mint State 1861-S Paquet double eagles listed at either PCGS or NGC. A MS62 PCGS coin now resides in the D.L. Hansen Collection, making the Harry Bass, Jr. example tied for the second-finest certified example at PCGS. Marks and abrasions are seen on all 1861-S Paquet coins, although this example shows a mere handful of minor marks when compared to similarly graded coins. Attractive, honey-gold surfaces retain the original sharp strike and plentiful mint luster abundantly. Eye appeal is far stronger than most San Francisco Paquet twenties. This coin has been absent from the market for its duration within the Bass Core Collection, and will be eagerly awaited by those needing a high-grade Paquet twenty for their advanced collection or Registry Set.
Population: 8 in 58 (2 in 58+), 1 finer (11/22).

Roster of Significant 1861-S Paquet Reverse Double Eagles

1. **MS62 PCGS.** D.L. Hansen Collection. Prior provenance unknown.
2. **Unc Details - Cleaning - PCGS Genuine.** Rarities Sale (Stack's Bowers, 8/2016), lot 3491, \$105,750.
3. **AU58+ PCGS.** Nicholson Family Collection (Stack's, 6/1967), lot 219; James Dines Collection (Stack's, 3/1969), lot 868; Paul Nugget, sold privately via the Goliad Corporation on 9/24/1987; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 1037). **The present coin.**
4. **AU58+ NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2018), lot 5109, \$144,000.
5. **AU58 PCGS.** Pre-Long Beach (Goldberg Auctions, 6/2005), lot 1075, \$134,550; Ohringer Family Trust Holdings, Part II (Goldberg Auctions, 9/2008), lot 1286, \$166,750; AWA Collection; D.L. Hansen Collection.
6. **AU58 PCGS.** Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2006), lot 4209, \$149,500.
7. **AU58 PCGS.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2009), lot 4145, \$149,500; Charles G. Wright Family Collection (Heritage, 4/2014), lot 5807, \$223,250.
8. **AU58 PCGS.** H. Jeff Browning "Dallas Bank" Collection (Sotheby's/Stack's, 10/2001), lot 31, \$40,250; El Dorado Collection (Stack's Bowers, 6/2014), lot 2629, \$188,000.
9. **AU58 NGC.** Recovered from the wreck of the S.S. *Republic*; Galt's Gulch Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2012), lot 5039, \$184,000.
10. **AU58 NGC.** Baltimore Collection (Heritage, 10/2008), lot 3035, \$149,500; Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 2/2009), lot 3020, \$161,000; New York Signature (Heritage, 11/2013), lot 3900, \$176,250.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 269L, PCGS# 8936

SPECIMEN HIGH RELIEF DOUBLE EAGLE

1907 High Relief Twenty, SP68
A Proof in All But Name



9066 1907 High Relief SP68 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The subject of the proof status of High Relief twenties has been contentious for many years. NGC states 'yes' and has published diagnostics of the pieces they will certify. PCGS states 'no' and will not certify any as proofs; however, this and one other coin are as close as they will come by giving those pieces Specimen designation. While we cannot make any definitive statement about the SP67+ piece, this example adheres to all the guidelines set out for proof designation for NGC proofs. To review, the NGC guidelines are based on the use of Edge 3 or the "Edge B-II" collar that was used to strike the Ultra High Relief twenties from March to April 1907 and again on December 31, 1907. Those diagnostics include:

- A series of diagonal die lines that move upward from the left side of the collar segment between the S of PLURIBUS and the star.
- A recut B in PLURIBUS, showing an initial impression partially impressed north.
- A notched upper serif in the U in PLURIBUS.

Unfortunately, these characteristics are not visible because of the plastic tab that covers almost the entire word PLURIBUS. But the diagnostics extend beyond the collar and include characteristics found on each of the die faces. The most easily seen are:

- A heavy die line that runs through the base of the Capitol dome.
- Swirling die polish lines in the right obverse field, but most prominently include a pair of lines that resemble an upside-down V just below the bottom of the laurel branch.
- Die lines that are visible within the raised portions of the rays of the sun on the reverse.
- Heavy die polish lines in the negative space between the eagle's wing and neck, and along the periphery between 9 and 11 o'clock.

Strike detail is complete throughout, including the sometimes problematic area at the tops of the letters in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. As one would expect for a proof or Specimen High Relief, the surfaces display bright, thick, satiny mint luster. The numeric grade precludes any noticeable contact marks. There is one oval-shaped alloy spot that serves as an identifier for this particular coin, located just below the leg of the W in TWENTY on the reverse.

Below is the roster of the top 10 proof NGC-certified High Relief twenties, as compiled by Ron Guth. We have assumed this PCGS Specimen is the equivalent to an NGC proof and placed it in the #3 position.

Roster of Important 1907 Proof Saint-Gaudens Twenties, High Relief, Wire Rim

1. **PR69 NGC.** R.E. "Ted" Naftzger, Jr. Collection; Phillip Morse Collection (Heritage, 11/2005), lot 6529, \$534,750; Tacasyl Collection (Bonhams, 9/2013), lot 1024, \$573,300; Signature Auction (Heritage, 9/2020), lot 3815, \$660,000.
 2. **PR68★ NGC.** Capt. Andrew North Collection (as part of a cased set), displayed by Stack's at the 1956 ANA Convention; NERCG/Jim Halperin, sold privately via the Goliad Corporation in 4/1980; Stack's, sold privately as part of the "The Million Dollar Set" (Captain North) of 1907 coinage in 4/1980; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part IV (Bowers and Merena, 11/2000), lot 954, \$57,500; Americana Sale (Stack's, 1/2010), lot 3643, \$230,000; Pannonia Collection (Heritage, 9/2014), lot 3499, \$282,000.
 3. **SP68 PCGS.** Auction '81 (Paramount's section, 7/1981), lot 1464; Harry Bass Collection. **The present coin.**
 4. **PR68 NGC.** 65th Anniversary (Stack's, 12/2000), lot 1535, \$138,000.
 5. **PR67+★ NGC.** Rod Sweet Collection, Part II (Bowers and Merena, 11/2004), lot 544, \$149,500; Pre-Long Beach (Goldberg Auctions, 2/2010), lot 2534, \$157,550; Central States Signature (Heritage, 4/2017), lot 4369, \$146,875.
 6. **PR67+ NGC.** Long Beach Signature (Heritage, 6/2020), lot 3307, \$168,000.
 7. **PR67★ NGC.** ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2007), lot 2067, \$161,000.
 8. **PR67★ NGC.** Southerly Collection (Bowers and Merena, 3/2009), lot 4013, \$103,500; Pannonia Collection, Part II (Heritage, 10/2014), lot 5119, \$129,250; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2019), lot 3960, \$132,000.
 9. **PR67 NGC.** J.A. Sherman Collection (Stack's, 8/2007), lot 3428, \$149,500.
 10. **PR67 NGC.** FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2005), lot 30558, \$143,750.
 11. **PR67 NGC.** Baltimore Auction (Bowers and Merena, 1/2008), lot 628, \$138,575.
- From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.**
PCGS# 908549

PATTERNS

1804 Plain 4 Ten Dollar in Silver, PR66
Finest of Four Judd-34 Patterns Known
Important Early U.S. Mint Die Trial



9067 1804 Ten Dollar, Judd-34, Pollock-46, High R.7, PR66 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The dies are the same as on the 1804 BD-2 Plain 4 ten dollar proofs, but struck in silver with a reeded edge. There is perhaps no other date in the American series that so broadly captures the hearts and minds of collectors as the year 1804. All denominations bearing that date benefit from a bump in desirability simply the presence of those four digits. Why? As the saying goes, “a rising tide lifts all boats,” and the fabled 1804 Draped Bust dollar is the rising tide of United States numismatics. The rarity and fame of that singular issue has an effect on all other series for the year.

The 1804 Dollars and Eagles

The tale of the 1804 dollars has been told and retold, its origin story as legendary as the coins themselves. The Class I proofs were struck in 1834 for inclusion in special diplomatic presentation sets to be presented to the King of Siam and the Sultan of Muscat, and then again in 1835 for the emperors of Japan and Cochinchina (Vietnam). The year 1804 was the last for which silver dollars and eagle had been minted, so they were to be included in the sets. Mint officials created new dies and struck back-dated coins. The 1804 dollars are technically novodels, not restrikes, because the coins never existed.

By contrast, ten dollar gold coins were manufactured for circulation in 1804 using a single set of dies, all of which featured a Crosslet 4 in the date (BD-1). The Plain 4 eagles (BD-2) struck for the diplomatic presentation sets, which rank among the *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*, are clearly struck from entirely different dies. There has been a belief that they were manufactured from new dies created in 1834. However, Heritage Auctions' U.S. Coin Cataloger David Stone and our former colleague John Dale Beatty published a thorough and informative article about the production of those coins in the November 14, 2014 issue of *Coin World*. They summarized previously published research by John Dannreuther as follows:

“In an article published in *Coin World* on Aug. 14, 2006, Dannreuther presented evidence that the obverse die was actually a leftover obverse from the early 1800s with only the first three numerals of the date impressed into the die. The die was extensively polished and reworked in 1834 and the final digit was added using a Plain 4 punch from a set of half dollar punches used in 1834, to complete the date ...

“Dannreuther used computer-generated overlays to demonstrate that the bust punch used on both Plain 4 and Crosslet 4 eagles is identical in all major features and could not have been duplicated so closely with the technology available in the early 19th century.”

Stone and Beatty further point out that parallel research by Bill Nyberg's suggests “... the reverse of the 1804 Plain 4 eagle was actually an unused half dollar reverse from 1806.” For more information, we strongly recommend collectors locate a copy of the Stone and Beatty article from 2014.

Judd-34: An Overview

These rare patterns are struck from the same set of dies used in the production of 1804 Plain 4 ten dollar proofs included in the diplomatic presentation sets. They are legitimate die trials, not just off-metal strikes made for collectors. In fact, to quote the Stone and Beatty article once more:

“Dannreuther determined that the silver patterns ... were actually successive die trials that were struck in the period in which the Mint personnel were polishing and reworking dies, which had suffered considerable deterioration in their 30-odd years of storage.

“The die line was apparent on the 1804 Crosslet 4 eagle obverse, but it gradually faded and eventually vanished on the successive silver patterns, along with extensive evidence of die rust and decay. The silver patterns show a steady progression of die cleanup from one example to the next, along with some thinning of letters and devices and the disappearance of the die line in the hair, due to lapping. Some tooling marks are evident in the cap and hair on the obverse die of the Plain 4 eagle, as these features were reworked during the process. By the time the die was ready to strike the gold Plain 4 eagles, the die line had faded completely.”

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection example of Judd-34 is the finest of four known examples, serving as the plate coin in the first seven editions of the Judd reference and in Abe Kosoff's *Illustrated History of U.S. Coins*. The whereabouts of one of those coins is unknown (see #4 on the roster below). Another example designated as Judd-34A and struck with a plain edge has not been seen, though it is purported to exist and is ex: Ed Schuman. The only representative of Judd-34 to come to market in recent years is the Simpson example in PR64 PCGS, which realized \$288,000 as part of our January 2021 FUN Signature event. Prior to that, the only public auction appearance of Judd-34 was a May 1992 Bowers and Merena sale.

Physical Description

This Premium Gem Capped Bust Right ten dollar gold piece in silver is beautifully toned. Melded shades of blue, green, golden-orange, violet, and rose patina graces smooth surfaces that show little trace of contact. Strike definition is largely strong; softness is limited to the centers on each side, though the reverse displays better detail on the eagle's neck than the obverse does over Liberty's middle curls. An extraordinary early United States Mint pattern in every sense, closely linked to the production of two of the rarest and most storied issues in this country: the 1804 dollar and Plain 4 eagle in gold.

Roster of 1804 Ten Dollar, Judd-34 Representatives

1. PR66 PCGS. Possibly Edgar Adams and F.Y. Parker Collections (Thomas Elder, 4/1935), lot 2451; Dr. J. Hewitt Judd Collection (obverse illustrated as plate #59 in Abe Kosoff's 1962 *An Illustrated History of United States Coins*, and this coin is plated in the first seven editions of Judd; Abe Kosoff, sold privately on 8/3/1971 via Mike Brownlee; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 6001). **The present coin.**

2. PR64 PCGS. King Farouk Collection (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 1708; Dr. Conway A. Bolt Collection (Stack's, 4/1966), lot 1609, \$720; Eduard Kann Collection (Abner Kreisberg, 9/1971), lot 700; CSNS Sale (RARCOA, 4/1972), lot 968, \$2,400; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part III (Heritage, 1/2021), lot 3058, \$288,000. This coin has a distinctive depression on the cap that is evident in each of the appearances cited here, including on the cover coin of the 1972 RARCOA sale.

3. Proof (rim bumps) Uncertified. FUN Auction (RARCOA, 1/1973), lot 523; January Sale (Stack's, 1/1987), lot 551, \$11,550; Somerset Collection (Bowers and Merena, 5/1992), lot 1790, \$13,200.

4. Grade unknown. Plate #59 in Abe Kosoff's 1962, *An Illustrated History of United States Coins*, where it was described as being the (F.C.C.) Boyd coin on permanent display at the Newport Balboa Savings and Loan Association in Newport Beach, CA. The bank closed subsequently and the building is now a condominium office complex. What happened to the coin(s) on display is unknown.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 11100

1836 Two Cent, Struck in Billon
Judd-52, PR66
Finest Known



- 9068** 1836 Two Cents, Judd-52, Pollock-55, Low R.6, PR66 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. An early, small diameter two cent pattern with a spread-winged eagle on the obverse and date below. The reverse features TWO CENTS in the center, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Struck in billon (90% copper, 10% silver) with a plain edge. These pieces show an interesting die punching error with the A in STATES punched over an erroneous E. Restrikes were most likely made in the late 1850s and later, and show a shattered obverse die. About two dozen pieces are known of this early pattern, according to USPatterns.com. This piece appears to be the finest known with no others equal or finer at the two grading services (11/22). The pearl-gray surfaces display streaks and dabs of deeper gray patina on each side. Sharply detailed with almost complete definition on the eagle's breast.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 2964, PCGS# 11194

1836 Gold Dollar, Struck in Gold
Judd-67 Original, PR65 Cameo



- 9069** 1836 Gold Dollar, Judd-67 Original, Pollock-70, R.5, PR65 Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass Collection. Christian Gobrecht both designed and engraved the dies for this gold dollar pattern. The influence of Mexican coinage is clearly seen on the obverse design showing a Liberty cap surrounded by rays of glory. The reverse features the denomination 1 D. within a coiled palm frond, with the date below and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above. Struck in coin gold with a 10% copper alloy and a plain edge. Saul Teichman estimates about three dozen individual examples are known, including a half-dozen in museums. This example displays bright yellow-gold surfaces and significant contrast between the frosted devices and deeply reflective fields.
Ex: Lester Merkin (4/1970), lot 612.
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 26VC, PCGS# 411795

1839 Half Dollar, Struck in Silver
Judd-93 Original, PR65 Cameo
Liberty Faces Right



9070 1839 Half Dollar Judd-93 Original, Pollock-105, Low R.7, PR65 Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse has a bust of Liberty, facing right, with thirteen stars around and the date 1839 below. Liberty's hair is knotted in a bun, and a long curl trails below the ear. This obverse, by Christian Gobrecht, is similar to the one used on 1838 eagles but it faces the other way. This particular design uses the regular 'Small Letters' reverse die of 1839. It is the only original produced from this obverse die. The reverse has the same design used to coin regular issue, Small Letters, Liberty Seated half dollars, ca. 1839-1842. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. The surfaces are silver-gray with deeper gray over the frosted devices. Pale gold and rose toning is seen over the reverse. Ex: William H. Woodin; "Colonel" Green; J.M. Wade; ANA Auction (Stack's, 8/1971), lot 443.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 908525 Base PCGS# 11396

1849 Three Cent Silver in Copper-Nickel
Judd-114, PR65



9071 1849 Three Cent Silver, Judd-114, Pollock-128, Low R.7 PR65 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Judd-114 features a simple design, showing on one side a large Arabic 3 and on the other a Roman III, muling the reverses for Judd-111 and Judd-112. The denticles are slanted and toothlike. Struck in copper-nickel with a plain edge. Fewer than a dozen examples of this pattern are known, and, indeed, the actual number of survivors may be as low as eight. The Bass coin features delicate tan-gold color with wisps silver-gray and pale-blue patina. A couple of carbon spots occur within the Arabic 3, but there are no abrasions to mention. Population: 3 in 65, 0 finer. CAC: 1 in 65, 0 finer (11/22). Ex: Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Company (8/10/1970). **From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.** NGC ID# 297T, PCGS# 11498

1852 Annular Gold Dollar in Silver
Judd-138, PR63



- 9072** 1852 Gold Dollar, Judd-138 Thin, Pollock-165, Low R.7 PR63 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse design consists of the legend USA above and 1852 below. The reverse features a circle of olive sprigs. Struck on an annular, thin silver planchet with a plain edge. Pollock reports the weight of this piece being 11.7 grains. More than half a dozen examples of Judd-138 are known, including several struck over Seated dimes. The Simpson example over an 1860 dime confirms that at least some of these are restrikes. Deep gray surfaces exhibit typically uneven strike characteristics. Small marks exist beneath the patina.
Ex: Purchased from Julian Leidman via Mike Brownlee / Goliad Corporation (5/30/1972).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 56LH, PCGS# 11583

1853 Cent in German Silver
Judd-150, Thin Planchet, PR65



- 9073** 1853 One Cent, Judd-150 Thin, Pollock-178, Low R.7 PR65 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. A regular obverse die for the Liberty quarter eagle was paired with a laurel wreath reverse bearing the denomination, ONE CENT. Struck in German silver alloy with a reeded edge. USPatterns.com reports a dozen or so examples of Judd-150 known with a composition of 30% nickel, 60% copper, 10% zinc. Writing in the Bass Sylloge, Dave Bowers called this "an excellent example of a true pattern, not a restrrike, not a collectors' piece." Steely, silver-gray surfaces are somewhat flashy. Few signs of contact.
Ex: Purchased from Lee F. Hewitt (4/17/1972).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 299J, PCGS# 11626

1856 Half Cent in Copper-Nickel
Judd-177, PR64



- 9074** 1856 Half Cent, Judd-177, Pollock-205, R.5, PR64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Struck from regular 1856 half cent dies with a plain edge, but in copper-nickel alloy instead of copper. These were experimental strikes manufactured for distribution to congressional and Treasury officials for their approval. According to USPatterns.com, about 75 to 100 pieces are known. The borders are weak, as always, while each side is beautifully preserved with pale copper and tan-gold color.
Ex: Purchased from Brinton T. Schorer (5/3/1973).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 29AV, PCGS# 11777

1858 Half Dollar in Silver, PR65
Judd-222, Finest of Four Known



- 9075** 1858 Half Dollar, Judd-222, Pollock-265, High R.7, PR65 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The regular issue obverse is paired with Anthony Paquet's reverse with an eagle, wings spread, its head turned toward the right (viewer's left) wing, the statutory legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, around, and the denomination, HALF DOLLAR, below. The eagle is clutching an olive branch and three long arrows, a ribbon in its mouth inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. This is one of four confirmed example of Judd-222. Indeed, it is the finest of the group, followed by a PR63 PCGS, a PR61 PCGS (ex: Simpson), and the impounded Byron Reed example, which carries an ICG grade of PR64, according to USPatterns.com. A blanket of golden-orange patina covers the silvery surface of this partly contrasted Gem. The fields are clean and semireflective, while the devices are strong and frosty. Population: 1 in 65, 0 finer (11/22). Ex: J. Hewitt Judd; Abe Kosoff (8/3/1971).
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 11916

1859 Twenty Dollar in Gilt Copper
Judd-262, One of Six or Seven Traced, PR64



- 9076** 1859 Twenty Dollar, Judd-262, Pollock-307, Gilt, Low R.7, PR64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Anthony Paquet's seated figure of Liberty faces left on the obverse supporting a fasces with her right hand and a shield with her left. An eagle is standing behind the shield. The reverse is from the same die as regular issue 1859 twenties. Struck in copper and gilt with a reeded edge. There are six or possibly seven examples of this Paquet twenty dollar pattern that have been traced, according to Saul Teichman. This is one of two that have been gilt. Each side showcases lovely orange-gold color, satiny luster, and razor-sharp detail. The only overt imperfections are two tiny digs in the field left of the fasces. A few other tiny marks appear elsewhere, but none of them are major.
Ex: Gaston DiBello Collection (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 504.
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 908545 Base PCGS# 12044

1861 GOD OUR TRUST Half Dollar in Silver
Judd-277, PR65 Deep Cameo



9077 1861 Half Dollar, Judd-277, Pollock-326, 328, Low R.7, PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The regular Seated Liberty half dollar design with the addition of a scroll over the eagle bearing the motto GOD OUR TRUST. The obverse die has the shield point over the right edge of the 1 in the date as described for Pollock-326. The other variant shows the shield point over the left edge of the 8 in the date. Struck in silver with a plain edge. This variety also exists in copper, and fewer than a dozen of each are believed to survive. Gold, crimson, violet, and blue toning encircle each side, leaving the centers brilliant and deeply contrasted. A tiny dark spot near Liberty's right (facing) wrist identifies the coin.

Ex: River Oaks Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1976), lot 969.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 908555 Base PCGS# 535172

1863 Two Cents in Copper
Judd-312, PR64 Brown



9078 1863 Two Cents, Judd-312, Pollock-377, R.4, PR64 Brown PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse is similar to the regular issue obverse of 1864, with GOD OUR TRUST on the ribbon above the shield. The reverse shows the denomination 2 CENTS sharply curved in a wreath with the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA around. Struck in bronze with a plain edge. This is a collectible pattern issue with a population in excess of 100 coins. The Bass representative is golden-brown with splashes of rose, green, and pale-blue color.

Ex: Purchased from Julian Leidman (7/28/1972)

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

NGC ID# 29ER, PCGS# 60467 Base PCGS# 60467

1863 Motto Quarter Dollar in Copper
Judd-336, PR67 Red and Brown



- 9079** 1863 Quarter Dollar, Judd-336, Pollock-408, R.7, PR67 Red and Brown PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Both sides are of adopted designs, with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST placed on a scroll above the eagle, as adopted in 1866. Struck in copper with a reeded edge. These Motto patterns were actually struck around 1869 or 1870, according to USPatterns.com. About a dozen examples of Judd-336 are known, and this is the finest one we have handled. Flashy proof surfaces are magnificently toned in shades of orange, magenta, and violet. Essentially void of contact and carbon. Population: 1 in 67 Red and Brown, 0 finer (11/22).
Ex: *Acquired in trade from Numismatics Ltd. (8/12/1972).*
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
NGC ID# 29FN, PCGS# 70498

1865 Motto Double Eagle in Copper
Judd-453, PR65 Brown



- 9080** 1865 Twenty Dollar, Judd-453, Pollock-526, High R.6, PR65 Brown PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Both the obverse and the reverse are similar to the regular issue 1865 double eagle except that the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added above the eagle as adopted in 1866. Struck in copper with a reeded edge. USPatterns.com provides the following commentary about Judd-453, the so-called transitional double eagle:

“Over a dozen are believed known in copper as illustrated, several of which have been gilded. These are believed to have been struck in 1865 as they use an unique reverse die with the motto hand cut into the die show IN high and a low tilted G in GOD.”

The Bass Collection coin is a gorgeous copper Gem with mahogany-brown surfaces that feature a rainbow of colorful toning that includes shades of orange, yellow, blue, green, violet, and magenta.

Ex: *61st Sale (New Netherlands, 6/1970), lot 20 via Julian Leidman.*
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
NGC ID# 29JY, PCGS# 60640

1867 Three Dollar in Silver, PR61
Judd-598, One of Only Two Extant
Ex: Woodin-Newcomer-Farouk-DiBello-Sieck



9081 1867 Three Dollars, Judd-598, Pollock-662, R.8, PR61 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Each side features the regular three dollar design for the year. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. This is one of two examples known in silver, with the other being the Byron Reed coin in the Durham Museum. The dies match those of the 1867 circulation strikes, not the proofs. Silvery surfaces show elements of golden color, though hairlines limit the grade. This is the only example of Judd-598 in private hands, available now for the first time in more than half a century.
Ex: William H. Woodin; Waldo C. Newcomer; King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt Sale (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 1807; Gaston DiBello Collection, Part II (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 480; William R. Sieck Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 7/1971), lot 329.
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 60810

1868 Quarter Eagle in Aluminum
Judd-654, PR64



9082 1868 Quarter Eagle, Judd-654, Pollock-727, Low R.7, PR64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Regular dies trial issue for the quarter eagle, but struck in aluminum with a reeded edge. Saul Teichman writes for USPatterns.com: "These were deliberately struck to show how easily aluminum coined and for sale to collectors in cased sets..." About a half dozen examples survive. This CAC-approved near-Gem is completely brilliant and expectedly sharp with considerable flashiness in the fields.
Ex: Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Company (9/10/1971).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 29P7, PCGS# 60872

1868 Longacre/Paquet Ten Dollar
Judd-662, High Date, PR63 Gilt



9083 1868 Ten Dollar, Judd-662, Pollock-737, Low R.7, PR63 Gilt PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse design, attributed to James B. Longacre, is quite similar to the design on the circulating three cent nickel, although in the large format here it looks radically different. The reverse shows a small eagle in the center with raised wings, the scroll reads IN GOD WE TRUST, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA around, and TEN D. at the rim below. Struck in copper and gilt with a reeded edge. This is the High Date variant with the 1 in the date close to the truncation of the bust. Harry Bass discovered the High Date variety. Only two examples are believed known of this date variant, one in copper and this gilt example. The surfaces are yellow-gold with an even layering of gold over both sides.
Ex: DiBello Collection (*Stack's*, 5/1970), lot 494.
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 908548 Base PCGS# 60880

1869 Double Eagle in Aluminum
Judd-785, PR67 Deep Cameo
The Finest Known



9084 1869 Twenty Dollar, Judd-785, Pollock-870, High R.7, PR67 Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Regular die trials issue struck in aluminum with a reeded edge. While traditionally termed a die trials striking, because of the difficulty in producing aluminum in 1869 it is safe to say there was no actual thought given to producing double eagles in 1869 struck in aluminum, making these pieces deliberately struck by the Mint for collectors. Nevertheless, these strikes are extremely rare. Off-metal pieces were also struck in copper (half a dozen estimated extant) and nickel (believed unique). Like the copper strikes, only half a dozen aluminum pieces are believed known. With the infrequency the aluminum strikes are offered, there may be even fewer than six known. This is the only Deep Cameo example certified to date (11/22).

This coin, and its inherent beauty, recall the dilemma faced by 19th manufacturing processes. Aluminum is the most abundant metallic element in the Earth's crust. However, it is rarely found in its elemental state. Prior to the introduction of the Hall-Héroult process in 1886, producing elemental aluminum was a complicated and expensive process. The cost to produce a small amount of aluminum in the early 19th century was very high, higher than for gold or platinum. Emperor Napoleon III was said to have a few sets of aluminum dinner plates and eating utensils for his honored guests. This off-metal striking was made during that period, at a time when aluminum was costly and difficult to extract. Aluminum patterns are all rare and valuable today, simply because so few were ever produced. Aluminum would have made a beautiful metal for coinage as it almost always imparts deeply reflective fields and heavily frosted devices on the proofs struck in this formerly precious metal. Once the Hall-Héroult process was developed its value rapidly diminished and rather than a precious metal it became an inexpensive commodity. As a side note, Charles Martin Hall opened the first large-scale aluminum plant in Pittsburgh, later known as Alcoa.

This is a seemingly flawless example of aluminum-as-coin. The fields are deeply mirrored and establish an almost total black background for the frosted, white devices.

Ex: DiBello Collection (*Stack's*, 5/1970), lot 506.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

PCGS# 908524 Base PCGS# 61017

1870 Standard Silver Half, Struck in Silver
Judd-928, PR64



- 9085** 1870 Standard Silver Half Dollar, Judd-928, Pollock-1033, High R.7, PR64 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. William Barber's always-popular Seated Liberty design. The obverse shows Liberty seated left, surrounded by 13 stars with the date below. Liberty supports a shield with her right hand, and holds an olive sprig with her left hand. The shield is inscribed with the banner LIBERTY. The reverse displays a wreath of cotton and corn. 50 CENTS is located high within the wreath, and STANDARD is centered above. Struck in silver with a plain edge. Fewer than a dozen examples are believed known of this reeded edge variant. This is a magnificent example of this popular William Barber design. The fields are deeply reflective and each side displays an even layer of golden toning.
Ex: *Golding Collection (Stack's, 6/1953), lot 19; ANA Auction (Stack's, 8/1971), lot 463.*
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
PCGS# 61173

1871 Standard Silver Dime in Copper
Judd-1075, PR64+ Red and Brown



- 9086** 1871 Standard Silver Ten Cents, Judd-1075, Pollock-1211, R.7, PR64+ Red and Brown PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Longacre's popular Seated Indian Princess motif with conjoined flags behind and Liberty's hand resting on a globe. The reverse has 10 CENTS in the center and is surrounded by a wreath of cotton and corn, the word STANDARD at the top of that side. Struck in copper with a reeded edge. This attractive near-Gem retains significant amounts of original mint red on both sides, and the fields are bright and reflective. A few specks of carbon account for the grade.
Ex: *Numismatics, Ltd. (Fred Weinberg), 8/12/1974.*
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
NGC ID# 2A3C, PCGS# 71334

1872 'Amazonian' Half Dollar in Silver
Judd-1200, PR64



9087 1872 Half Dollar, Judd-1200, Pollock-1340, Low R.7, PR64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse is of the William Barber Amazonian design. A seated Liberty faces left, holding a sword in her left hand and resting her left arm on a large shield. Her outstretched right hand is on the head of an eagle, wings partially spread, at her feet. Thirteen stars arranged seven and six are before and behind her head, respectively, and the date 1872 is in exergue. The reverse depicts a spread-winged eagle holding three arrows in its right talon and a shield in its left. An olive branch is in front of the shield. The usual national reference is above, with denomination spelled out HALF DOL. below. The scroll crossing the shield reads IN GOD WE TRUST. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

USPatterns.com has traced 10 distinct example of this 1872 Amazonian half dollar pattern, adding that two or three additional pieces may exist as part of complete silver sets. While that total may be somewhat high relative to some other offerings in the United States pattern series, few issues are as highly regarded and sought-after as this one. Demand is perennially strong for what is often considered one of the most beautiful designs ever produced or suggested in this country. This is a well-preserved example that is nicely reflective on each side, the effect being to enhance what toning there may be; on the obverse light golden patina contrasts against the significant brilliance that remains on the reverse.

Ex: William H. Woodin; 19th Sale (Numismatic Gallery, 12/1942), lot 644; Jesse Taylor Collection (New Netherlands, 6/1970), lot 44.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 2A6C, PCGS# 61471

1872 Amazonian Gold Dollar in Gilt Copper
Judd-1225, PR63



9088 1872 Amazonian Gold Dollar, Judd-1225, Pollock-1367, Low R.7, PR63 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. William Barber's "Amazonian Gold" design has a bust of Liberty facing left, her hair flowing behind her head and below the bust truncation, wearing a Phrygian cap inscribed Liberty. There are 13 stars along the border and the date is below the bust. The reverse is similar to the Amazonian silver design with an eagle, wings spread, grasping three arrows in its right claw, its left leg raised up to support a shield. A ribbon crosses the shield with the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST. Around is the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below is the denomination ONE DOL. Struck in copper and gilt with a reeded edge.

USPatterns.com lists about a dozen examples known of Judd-1225, several of which, like this one, have been gilt. Orange elements complement yellow-gold color overall. A few marks and hairlines are noted, but they are minor. A fantastic example of one of the most famous U.S. pattern designs.

Ex: Gaston DiBello Collection, Part II (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 477.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 537324

1872 Amazonian Ten Dollar in Gilt Copper
Judd-1246, PR64 Gilt



9089 1872 Amazonian Ten Dollar, Judd-1246, Pollock-1388, Low R.7, PR64 Gilt PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. William Barber's "Amazonian Gold" design has a bust of Liberty facing left, her hair flowing behind her head and below the bust truncation, wearing a Phrygian cap inscribed Liberty. There are 13 stars along the border and the date is below the bust. The reverse is similar to the Amazonian silver design with an eagle, wings spread, grasping three arrows in its right claw, its left leg raised up to support a shield. A ribbon crosses the shield with the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST. Around is the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below is the denomination TEN DOL. Struck in copper and gilt with a reeded edge.

The series of Amazonian silver and gold patterns are considered among the most beautiful designs ever created for U.S. coinage, and it is a shame that they never saw actual production for commerce. The Amazonian gold patterns were sold in six-piece sets, mostly produced in copper. Today, several of the copper examples are gilt, like this piece. About a dozen examples are known in all. To our knowledge, the only complete set of Amazonian patterns that still exists, in all metals and all denominations, is held by Bob Simpson. This is a lovely honey-gold example that shows pinpoint-sharp strike details throughout. The gilt layer is complete and undisturbed on both sides of this exception near-Gem. Only one other copper-gilt example has been certified at this grade level (11/22).

Ex: DiBello Collection (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 497.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 537328

1874 Bailly Twenty Cent in Silver
Judd-1354, PR65



9090 1874 Twenty Cent, Judd-1354, Pollock-1498, Low R.7, PR65 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The J.A. Bailly design, adopted from the 1873 pattern Trade dollar (Judd-1315). Liberty is seated, facing left and holding a liberty pole in her right hand with Phrygian cap on top. Her left hand rests on a globe, with a scroll imprinted LIBERTY, and agricultural produce surrounds her. The reverse is similar to the twenty cent design as adopted in 1875, but the second arrowhead points well above the T in TWENTY, and all three leaves point toward the eagle's wing. Struck in silver with a plain edge. About two dozen examples of Judd-1354 exist, according to USPatterns.com. The design also occurs in copper (Judd-1355), aluminum (Judd-1356), and nickel (Judd-1356A). The present Gem showcases attractive golden-orange patina that deepens at the rims. The toning pattern at the lower right obverse suggests the remnants of an old partial print.
Ex: Ruby Collection, Part III (Superior Galleries, 2/1973), lot 887.
From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 2A9X, PCGS# 61658

1874 Bickford Ten Dollar, Struck in Nickel
Judd-1378, PR67+ Cameo
Broadstruck



9091 1874 Bickford Ten Dollar, Judd-1378, Pollock-1523, R.8, PR67+ Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse depicts a bust of Liberty facing left with the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above and the date below. Liberty wears a diadem inscribed with the word LIBERTY and ornamented with six stars. The weight 16.72 GRAMS, the standard of the metal 900 FINE, and the word UBIQUE are centered on the reverse. Around the periphery is the U.S. denomination DOLLARS 10 and the following international equivalents: STERLING (Pound) 2.1.1; MARKEN 41.99; KRONEN 37.31; GULDEN 20.73; and FRANCS 51.81. Struck in nickel with a plain edge.

Only two of these Judd-1378 patterns are known, and both to show the same die crack at 5 o'clock on the obverse. This example is broadstruck, an observation Harry Bass noted upon receipt of this pattern as a gift: "Gifted to HBRF, 12/1991. Eagle. Obverse crack. Struck without collar? Measure!" That crack and central strike softness on the reverse are undoubtedly a result of the hardness of the nickel alloy. As noted in the Bass Sylloge, "Nickel alloy was not a standard metal for large-diameter patterns of any kind, as it was hard to strike and caused die damage." On this piece the softness is seen only on the waves of hair surrounding the face of Liberty. No softness is apparent on the reverse. The fields are bright silver-gray with near-white mint frost over the design elements, the combination providing a distinct cameo effect.

Ex: William Woodin, exhibited at the 1914 ANS exhibit; "Colonel" Green; Kreisberg-Schulman (2/1960); gifted by Brinton T. Shorer (5/3/1973) via Mike Brownlee.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
PCGS# 908551 Base PCGS# 61682

1875 Liberty by the Seashore Dollar in Silver
Judd-1420, Five Examples Traced, PR65+
Ex: Newlin-Garrett, Pedigreed Back to 1883



9092 1875 Dollar, Judd-1420, Pollock-1563, High R.7, PR65+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The obverse shows a seated figure of Liberty facing left at the seashore, with 13 stars ringing the rim and the date 1875 below. She holds an olive branch and rests her left hand on a globe reading LIBERTY. Two flags and a sheaf of wheat flank her. A steamship with sails appears in the water, with the sails billowing in one direction and steam blowing in the opposite direction. A scroll above the date reads IN GOD WE TRUST. The reverse is the regular issue No Motto silver dollar design. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

The popular Liberty by the Seashore design was implemented by William Barber. Examples of this obverse paired with the regular No Motto Seated dollar design exist in silver, as here (struck on Trade dollar planchets), as well as in copper and aluminum. Edgar Adams and William H. Woodin noted that six examples of this type in silver were manufactured, while USPatterns.com has traced five. We have handled Judd-1420 on only four different occasions since our Permanent Auction Archive was established in 1993. Two of those appearances represented the same coin. The last example we handled was the Simpson coin (a duplicate, the other being PR66 Cameo PCGS) in January 2022. That piece was graded PR62 by PCGS.

The Bass coin offered here is the sole finest non-Cameo submission at PCGS and CAC. Each side displays original shades of gold, blue, and violet patina over smooth, contact-free surfaces. Eye appeal is outstanding, especially in tandem with the marvelous obverse design.

Ex: Harold P. Newlin Collection (John W. Haseltine, 4/1883), lot 355, realized \$26; John Work Garrett - Johns Hopkins University Collection (Stack's, 5/1976), lot 655.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 2ABL, PCGS# 61727

(1876) Undated Trade Dollar in Silver
Judd-1475a, PR62
Ex: Farouk-Vickery



9093 (1876) Undated Trade Dollar, Judd-1475a, Pollock-1627, High R.7, PR62 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. This Trade dollar pattern is similar to the adopted design but with noticeable differences. It shows Liberty facing left, 13 stars around but an undated obverse. The reverse has a larger eagle than seen on the adopted reverse; otherwise, the legends are the same. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. Although these undated patterns were once thought to have been struck in 1873, Walter Breen found evidence, supported by more recent research by Roger Burdette, that Anthony Paquet was paid \$600 in May 1876 for new Trade dollar hubs, which were dateless. USPatterns.com has traced five examples of Judd-1475a (formerly Judd-1320). Dusky silver surfaces have a subdued, mattelike appearance. A bit of crimson color appears around the obverse rims.

Ex: King Farouk; Palace Collection of Egypt Sale (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 1922; Dr. Eugene Vickery Collection / ANA Sale (Paramount, 8/1972), lot 999.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 534817

1877 Sailor Head Quarter Dollar in Copper
Judd-1500, PR66+ Red and Brown



9094 1877 Sailor Head Quarter Dollar, Judd-1500, Pollock-1653, Low R.7, PR66+ Red and Brown PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. William Barber's well-known Sailor Head obverse is paired with a regular Seated quarter reverse. The obverse exhibits a bust with the date below and 13 stars arranged seven left and six right, separated by IN GOD WE TRUST in small letters. Struck in copper with a reeded edge. This is one of eight examples that Saul Teichman of USPatterns.com has traced with the caveat that a ninth representative may survive. Each side displays marvelous copper-red color that has mellowed slightly in certain areas to shades of violet and rose. Carbon is absolutely minimal and contact is virtually unseen. Endorsed by CAC for quality.

Ex: Purchased from Lee F. Hewitt (4/17/1972).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
PCGS# 71835

1877 Half Dollar in Silver, PR66 Deep Cameo
Judd-1528, Finest of Four Examples
Ex: Green-Judd



9095 1877 Half Dollar, Judd-1528, Pollock-1696, High R.7, PR66 Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. A William Barber design with a helmeted head of Liberty on the obverse and a sandwich-board eagle on the reverse. The obverse also displays 13 stars, seven left and six right, separated by IN GOD WE TRUST. The helmet includes an eagle, a plume, and a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. The reverse completes the statutory legends across the periphery. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

Only four examples of Judd-1528 exist. We have handled the other three representatives in 2009, 2021, and 2022. At the time, those were the only three coins in private hands, with the Bass coin impounded in the ANA Money Museum. In an incredible turn of events, we have the pleasure of offering that once-unobtainable coin here now, giving collectors the opportunity to pick up an example of this extremely rare pattern for a record third consecutive year. But do not be fooled. These coins may not be seen again for another generation, and those who may have missed out recently are encouraged to try again.

This is the single finest of the four extant representatives of Judd-1528. It exhibits dramatic Deep Cameo contrast between the thickly frosted devices and the mirrorlike fields. A thin layer of natural golden patina over each side enhances the visual quality and confirms the originality of the surfaces.

Roster of 1877 Judd-1528 Half Dollars

1. **PR66 Deep Cameo. CAC.** "Col." E.H.R. Green; J. Hewitt Judd; An Illustrated History of U.S. Coins (Abe Kosoff, 1962), lot 493; Public Auction Sale (Lester Merkin, 6/1970), lot 643; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. **The present coin.**
2. **PR65+ Cameo PCGS.** Lenox Lohr; R.E. Cox, Jr. (Stack's, 4/1962), lot 2270; Christie's (9/1988); Auction '89; Novoselsky; Higman-Alterman; Alhambra/Hanks; Saul Teichman, private collection; Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 7/2003), lot 466; November Signature (Heritage, 11/2003), lot 11211; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part VIII (Heritage, 5/2022), lot 3654.
3. **PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC.** Armand Champa Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 5/1972), lot 1074; William R. Sieck Collection (7-8/1981), lot 240; Morris Evans Collection (Bowers and Merena, 8/1998), lot 2088; Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 7/2003), lot 466; New York Signature (Heritage, 11/2003), lot 11211; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part III (Heritage, 1/2021), lot 3233.
4. **PR65 PCGS.** King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 1974; Gaston DiBello (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 392; Byron Johnson (Hughes, 11/1979); K. Goldman; Classics Sale (American Numismatic Rarities, 12/2003), lot 306; Lemus Collection, Queller Family Collection Part Two (Heritage, 1/2009), lot 1880.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.
NGC ID# 2AEC, PCGS# 535350

1878 Goloid Dollar in Goloid
Judd-1557, PR65 Cameo



- 9096** 1878 Goloid Dollar, Judd-1557, Pollock-1749, Low R.6, PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Liberty faces left, with cap adorned with wheat ears, cotton leaves and bolls, eponymously inscribed in incuse letters. There are 13 stars ringing the rim, with the Latin motto above and date below. On the reverse the center reads GOLOID / 1—G. / 24—S. / .9 FINE. / 258 GRS. within a circle of 38 stars. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is above, ONE DOLLAR below. Struck in goloid alloy (3.6% gold, 86.4% silver, 10.0% copper) with a reeded edge. Light golden toning covers much of the cameo-contrasted surfaces. However, this Gem proof retains largely silver centers.
Ex: Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries (8/11/1971).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 2AFA, PCGS# 412466 Base PCGS# 61919

1879 Morgan Ten Cent in Silver
Originally Toned, Judd-1586, PR66



- 9097** 1879 Morgan Ten Cents, Judd-1586, Pollock-1779, High R.6, PR66 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The "Morgan dime" design, with a head of Liberty similar to that on the Morgan dollar. The legend rings the rim, with the date 1879 below. On the reverse, ONE DIME, is enclosed, first by E PLURIBUS UNUM and 13 stars, then by a circle of beads, finally by a wreath of corn, cotton, tobacco, and wheat. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. This design exists both in silver and in copper. USPatterns.com reports about 12 to 15 examples extant in each metal. Original multicolor toning drapes each side in gorgeous shades of blue, violet, rose, and gold. Fully struck and remarkably attractive and well-preserved.
Ex: Purchased from Lee F. Hewitt (4/17/1972).
From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.
NGC ID# 2AGC, PCGS# 61963

1879 Washlady Half Dollar in Copper
Judd-1598, PR66 Brown



9098 1879 Washlady Half Dollar, Judd-1598, Pollock-1792, High R.6, PR66 Brown PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Barber's Washlady motif is featured on the obverse. The head of Liberty faces left with IN GOD WE TRUST above and the date below. The reverse depicts an eagle with spread wings holding an olive branch in one talon and three long, slender arrows in the other. The legends surround the eagle, with the denomination below. Struck in copper with a reeded edge. Although the Washlady moniker bestowed on this design by David Prosky in 1891 comes off as somewhat pejorative, the motif is one of the best-regarded and most sought-after in the U.S. pattern series.

The present example is one of 12 to 15 representatives known in copper. A similar number exist in silver. Glossy mahogany-brown surfaces showcase iridescent accents of blue, magenta, and copper-orange. Void of carbon spots or overt signs of contact.

Ex: Purchased from Lee F. Hewitt (4/17/1972).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 2AGN, PCGS# 61976

1879 Metric Dollar in Silver
Judd-1618, PR65



9099 1879 Metric Dollar, Judd-1618 Silver, Pollock-1813, R.5, PR65 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. William Barber's Metric dollar pattern with an obverse that is similar to the one used on the 1877 half union patterns. Liberty wears a coronet with a border of pearls. The reverse shows a partial wreath of cotton and corn tied at the base, a ribbon, and inscriptions that include DEO EST GLORIA and the elemental composition of gold. Struck in silver with a reeded edge. This is a collectible pattern with several hundred pieces known, according to USPatterns.com. Mostly silver-gray surfaces exhibit whispers of golden color. Razor-sharp and minimally marked for the grade.

Ex: Purchased from Stack's (6/26/1970).

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 2AH9, PCGS# 61996

1879 Coiled Hair Stella in Aluminum
Judd-1640, Six Coins Traced, PR64+
Ex: Maris-Garrett



9100 1879 Coiled Hair Four Dollar, Judd-1640, Pollock-1840, High R.7, PR64+ PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The reverse and the obverse periphery are the same as the Judd-1635 through 1637 stellars, but the center obverse features the George T. Morgan Coiled Hair design. Liberty's hair is braided, and a hair band in front reads LIBERTY. Struck in aluminum with a reeded edge.

The four dollars stellars of 1879 and 1880 are among the most sought-after of all United States patterns. This Coiled Hair type is by far the rarer of the two, with most available stellars being the 1879 Flowing Hair examples in gold (Judd-1635). These aluminum representatives would have been included and sold as part of three-coin sets along with the gold (Judd-1624) and metric silver (Judd-1633) dollars in this same metal.

This marvelous near-Gem from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection is brilliant with partly contrasted silver surfaces. Moderately reflective fields show a few light striations, while Liberty's cheek and neck are completely contact-free. The reverse shows a bit of dusiness. Endorsed by CAC and Plus-designated by PCGS for quality within the grade.

Roster of 1880 Coiled Hair Stellars in Aluminum, Judd-1640

- 1. PR67 Cameo NGC.** Public Auction Sale (Lester Merkin, 9/1967), lot 407; Rio Rancho (Superior, 10/1974), lot 136; 1979 ANA Sale (New England Rare Coin Auctions, 7/1979), lot 1358; Pittsburgh Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 8/2004), lot 893; The Samuel Bergard and S.S. New York Collections (Stack's, 7/2008), lot 4228.
- 2. PR66 Cameo NGC.** CSNS (Rarcoa, 5/1971), lot 397; Winter ANA (Steve Ivy, 2/1983), lot 1791; 1988 ANA (Heritage, 7/1988), lot 2759; The Lemus Collection (Heritage, 1/2009), lot 1930; Los Angeles Signature (Heritage, 8/2009), lot 1385.
- 3. PR64+ PCGS. CAC.** Dr. Edward Maris Collection (Harlan P. Smith, 6/1886), lot 221; John Work Garrett Collection (Stack's, 3/1976), lot 668; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection; Harry Bass Research Foundation. **The present coin.**
- 4. PR63+ Cameo PCGS.** Rare Coin List #10 (Paramount, 6/1975); Dallas Bank Collection (Sotheby's/Stack's, 10/2001), lot 369;
- 5. Grade Unknown.** Smithsonian, donated in 1993, gilt weighs 19.84 grains. The image on the Smithsonian website does not appear to match #6 below.
- 6. Grade Unknown.** Auction '80 (RARCOA, 8/1980), lot 1946; Auction '83 (Rarcoa, 7/1983), lot 1410; possibly Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions (5/1990). Gilt, may be copper.

Additional Appearances

The following appearances likely represent duplications of the above coins, although tracing complete pedigrees from the early years is today impossible:

- 1914 ANS Exhibit (Woodin), later sold to Newcomer; probably the coin in the Olsen Sale (Mehl, 11/1944), lot 616.
- An example in the Virgil Brand Collection, bought as part of a complete set of stellars from Edgar H. Adams in 1911.
- Another example in the Brand holdings, this one from a complete set purchased from F.C.C. Boyd in 1921.
- King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 1995; purchased at the sale by James P. Randall.
- King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt (Sotheby's, 2/1954), lot 2024, also purchased by Randall.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

NGC ID# 2AHW, PCGS# 62018

1881 Liberty Cent in Nickel
Judd-1665, PR66 Cameo



9101 1881 Liberty Cent, Judd-1665, Pollock-1865, High R.6, PR66 Cameo PCGS. CAC. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The motifs closely resemble those on the issued 1883 Liberty nickel, but the obverse stars are absent in favor of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and on the reverse the Roman numeral is I instead of V. Struck in nickel with a plain edge. The USPatterns.com website estimates about two dozen pieces extant. This is a highly contrasted and brilliant Premium Gem. A few spots of dusky golden color appear at the central reverse.

Ex: CSNS Sale (RARCOA, 4/1975), lot 388.

From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.

PCGS# 862061 Base PCGS# 62061



Chief Engraver Charles Barber

1882 Shield Earring Dollar in Silver, PR67+ Cameo
Finest Known Example, Judd-1702
Among the Most Popular U.S. Patterns



9102 1882 Shield Earring Dollar, Judd-1702, Pollock-1904, Low R.7, PR67+ Cameo PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. George Morgan's celebrated Shield Earring motif (Judd-1702) is widely considered to be among the most beautiful designs ever produced by the United States Mint. The obverse features a head of Liberty facing right, her hair held down "like a skull cap" by a band with LIBERTY inscribed on it. At the very center of the design, Liberty wears her signature shield-shaped earring. The reverse shows a defiant eagle clutching an olive branch and arrows. The statutory requirements are scattered about each side in the usual places. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

There are a handful of issues in the pattern series, which includes more than 2,000 entries, that have a tendency to stand above the rest for one reason or another. They include the Bickford eagle of 1874, the four dollar stellars (Flowing and Coiled Hair) of 1879 and 1880, the Amazonian patterns, the Morgan half dollars, and of course, the Shield Earring pieces. Indeed, these are the rarest of the "named" patterns. Saul Teichman provides the following additional commentary in a recent October 6, 2022 post on USPatterns.com:

"This has also been called the 'Schoolgirl' design in many sales although today most people prefer to use the Shield Earring designation and leave the 'Schoolgirl' designation to J1608-J1610.

"The earliest occurrence for this design was the copper set in the June 1886 Maris sale. They are described as being plated in the sale catalog. I believe the dollar went to Doughty (possibly via Woodward's September 1888 Vicksburg and January 1889 Stetson sales) while the quarter and half went into the Stickney collection. This half apparently ended up in Henry Chapman's 1909 Zabriskie sale. The first silver set was in the June 1890 New York Coin & Stamp sale of the Parmelee collection where it was purchased by 'Clay', ie H.P. Smith. The set then sold in the 1906 Chapman brothers auction to John Story Jenks where it was purchased by Clapp and finally ended up in the Eliasberg collection. The half dollar apparently was sold or lost as it did not appear in the Eliasberg I sale.

"It is likely that most known today in silver and copper trace their pedigree to the Woodin collection and were obtained in trade for 'returning' the two \$50 gold patterns to the mint collection. A partial set was sold in the February 1911 Edgar Adams sale of some of the Woodin duplicates as well as additional examples in both metals in some circa 1913 fixed price lists.

The Shield Earring dollars represent the pinnacle of the series — the largest denomination in the set and the most desirable, especially in silver. There are only nine examples traced, of which the Bass coin is the single finest. It compares favorably to the second finest example on our roster, the Bob R. Simpson example in PR65+ Cameo, which we had the pleasure of handling in January 2022. The surfaces here are absolutely original. Thickly frosted central devices produce stark contrast on each side, while the outer areas are toned in shades of gold that deepen to orange, crimson, blue, and green toward the rims. Preservation and eye appeal are both unimprovable. This a remarkable opportunity to obtain the long-unobtainable finest known Shield Earring dollar in silver. We expect spirited bidding.

Roster of 1882 Shield Earring Dollars in Silver, Judd-1702

- 1. PR67+ Cameo PCGS.** Gaston DiBello Collection, Part II (Stack's, 5/1970), lot 452, \$1,050; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation Collection (HBCC# 6166). The present coin.
 - 2. PR65+ Cameo PCGS.** Lorin G. Parmelee Collection (New York Coin & Stamp Co., 6/1890), lot 252, part of a three-piece set; H.P. Smith Collection (S.H. & H. Chapman, 5/1906), lot 1463, part of a three-piece set; John Story Jenks Collection (Henry Chapman, 12/1921), lot 5697, part of a three-piece set; John H. Clapp Collection, sold intact via Stack's in 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection (Bowers and Merena, 5/1996), lot 296, \$85,250; Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part VII (Heritage, 1/2022), lot 3862, \$126,000.
 - 3. PR64+ Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC.** Illustrated History of United States Coins (Dr. J. Hewitt Judd Collection); Abe Kosoff, sold privately in 1962; A Florida Collection (part of a three-coin lot), Bowers and Ruddy (10/1976), lot 1225; William R. "Rudy" Sieck Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 7/1981), lot 310, \$18,000; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2018), lot 5244, not sold; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2019), lot 4817, \$108,000.
 - 4. PR64+ Cameo. PCGS. CAC.** Novoselsky; Alhambra/Hanks; E-Fair Signature (Heritage, 10/1999), lot 5770; GreatCollections.com (1/2015); Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part VI (Heritage, 8/2021), lot 3229, \$72,000.
 - 5. PR64 PCGS.** Julian Leidman, sold privately; Rogers M. Fred, Jr. Collections (Bowers and Merena, 11/1995), lot 2323, \$28,600.
 - 6. PR63 PCGS.** Atlanta Signature (Heritage, 8/2001), lot 8415, not sold; Jones Beach Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2007), lot 1610, \$34,500.
 - 7. PR63 PCGS.** Auction '82 (Paramount, 8/1982), lot 1838; Auction '90 (Superior, 8/1990), lot 1447, \$38,500; Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 1/2003), lot 536; Santa Clara Elite (Superior, 4/2004), lot 1513, not sold.
 - 8. PR63 PCGS.** George Sealy Ewalt Collection (Stack's, 11/1965), lot 81, \$1,300; Julius Turoff Collection (per Saul Teichman) (Bowers and Merena, 3/1994), lot 1470, \$27,500.
 - 9. Grade Unknown Uncertified.** National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.
- From The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II.*
PCGS# 537351

1896 Cent in Pure Nickel
Judd-1767a, PR65



9103 1896 One Cent, Judd-1767a, Pollock-1981, Low R.7, PR65 PCGS. Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Charles Barber's pattern for a uniform coinage in the cent and nickel denominations. The obverse has a shield as the central design element, crossed poles behind, one has a liberty cap atop and the other an eagle. E PLURIBUS UNUM, 13 stars, and the date are at the margin. The reverse is simply laid out with the denomination in the center, an olive branch around, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA at the margin. Struck in pure nickel (and as such it is magnetic) with a plain edge. At least half a dozen of these patterns are known, according to Saul Teichman. The present Gem features flashy nickel-gray surfaces with pale golden accents.

Ex: CSNS Sale (RARCOA, 4/1975), lot 391.

From *The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection, Part II*.

NGC ID# 2AM6, PCGS# 62221

End of Auction

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\$100 - \$199	\$10	\$100,000 - \$199,999	\$10,000
\$200 - \$499	\$20	\$200,000 - \$499,999	\$20,000
\$500 - \$999	\$50	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$25,000
\$1,000 - \$1,999	\$100	\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	\$50,000
\$2,000 - \$4,999	\$200	\$2,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$100,000
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44. Exclusive Dispute Resolution Process: All claims, disputes, or controversies in connection with, relating to, and/or arising out of Bidder's participation in Auction or purchase of any lot, any interpretation of the Terms and Conditions of Sale or any amendments thereto, any description of any lot or condition report, any damage to any lot, any alleged verbal modification of any term of sale or condition report or description, and/or any purported settlement whether asserted in contract, tort, under Federal or State statute or regulation, or any claim made by Bidder of a lot or Bidder's participation in Auction involving the auction or a specific lot involving a warranty or representation of a consignor or other person or entity including Auctioneer (which claim Bidder consents to be made a party) (collectively, "Claim") shall be exclusively heard by, and the claimant (or respondent) and Auctioneer each consent to the Claim being presented in a confidential binding arbitration before a single arbitrator administrated by and conducted under the rules of, the American Arbitration Association. The locale for all such arbitrations shall be Dallas, Texas. The arbitrator's award may be enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction. In the event that any Claim needs to be litigated, including actions to compel arbitration, construe the agreement, actions in aid of arbitration, or otherwise, such litigation shall be exclusively in the Courts of the State of Texas, in Dallas County, Texas, and if necessary the corresponding appellate courts. If a Claim involves a consumer, exclusive subject matter jurisdiction for the Claim is in the State District Courts of Dallas County, Texas and the consumer consents to subject matter and in personam jurisdiction; further CONSUMER EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY. A consumer may elect arbitration as specified above. Any claim involving the purchase or sale of numismatic or related items may be submitted through binding PNG arbitration. A Claim is not subject to class certification.
45. Choice of Law: Agreement and any Claim shall be determined and construed under Texas law. For auctions conducted by Heritage Auctions (HK) Limited, any Agreement and any Claim shall be determined and construed under Hong Kong law.
46. Fees and Costs: The prevailing party (a party that is awarded substantial and material relief on its damage claim based on damages sought versus awarded or the successful defense of a Claim based on damages sought versus awarded) may be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
47. Remedies: Any Claim must be brought within two (2) years of the alleged breach, default or misrepresentation or the Claim is waived. After one (1) year has elapsed, Auctioneer's maximum liability shall be limited to any commissions and fees Auctioneer earned on that lot. Auctioneer in no event shall be responsible for consequential damages, incidental damages, compensatory damages, or any other damages arising or claimed to be arising from the auction of any lot. Exemplary or punitive damages are not permitted and are waived. In the event that Auctioneer cannot deliver the lot or subsequently it is established that the lot lacks title, or other transfer or condition issue is claimed, in such cases the sole remedy shall be limited to rescission of sale and refund of the amount paid by Buyer; in no case shall Auctioneer's maximum liability exceed the high bid on that lot, which bid shall be deemed for all purposes the value of the lot. In the event of an attribution error, Auctioneer may at its sole discretion, correct the error on the Internet, or, if discovered at a later date, refund Buyer's purchase price without further obligation. Nothing herein shall be construed to extend the time of return or conditions and restrictions for return.
48. These Terms & Conditions provide specific remedies for occurrences in the auction and delivery process. Where such remedies are afforded, they shall be interpreted strictly. Bidder agrees that any claim shall utilize such remedies; Bidder making a claim in excess of those remedies provided in these Terms and Conditions agrees that in no case whatsoever shall Auctioneer's maximum liability exceed the high bid on that lot, which bid shall be deemed for all purposes the value of the lot.

Miscellaneous:

49. Agreements between Bidders and consignors to effectuate a non-sale of an item at Auction, inhibit bidding on a consigned item to enter into a private sale agreement for said item, or to utilize Auctioneer's Auction to obtain sales for non-selling consigned items subsequent to Auction, are strictly prohibited. If a subsequent sale of a previously consigned item occurs in violation of this provision, Auctioneer reserves the right to charge Bidder the applicable Buyer's Premium and consignor a Seller's Commission as determined for each auction venue and by the terms of the seller's agreement.
50. Acceptance of these Terms and Conditions qualifies Bidder as a client who has consented to be contacted by Heritage in the future. In conformity with "do-not-call" regulations promulgated by the Federal or State regulatory agencies, participation by Bidder is affirmative consent to being contacted at the phone number shown in his application and this consent shall remain in effect until it is revoked in writing. Heritage may from time to time contact Bidder concerning sale, purchase, and auction opportunities available through Heritage and its affiliates and subsidiaries.
51. Rules of Construction: Auctioneer presents properties in a number of collectible fields, and as such, specific venues have promulgated supplemental Terms and Conditions. Nothing herein shall be construed to waive the general Terms and Conditions of Auction by these additional rules and shall be construed to give force and effect to the rules in their entirety.

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Notice as to an Auction in California. Auctioneer has in compliance with Title 2.95 of the California Civil Code as amended October 11, 1993 Sec. 1812.600, posted with the California Secretary of State its bonds for it and its employees, and the auction is being conducted in compliance with Sec. 2338 of the Commercial Code and Sec. 535 of the Penal Code.

Notice as to an Auction in Texas. Notice is hereby given that the auctioneer is licensed by the Texas Department of Professional Licensing and Regulation, and any concerns may be addressed to Department at P. O. Box 12157, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 463-6599, or <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/>.

Additional Terms & Conditions: COINS & CURRENCY

COINS & CURRENCY TERM A: Signature® Auctions are not on approval. No certified material may be returned because of possible differences of opinion with respect to the grade offered by any third-party organization, dealer, or service. No guarantee of grade is offered for uncertified Property sold and subsequently submitted to a third-party grading service. There are absolutely no exceptions to this policy. Under extremely limited circumstances, (e.g. gross cataloging error) a purchaser, who did not bid from the floor, may request Auctioneer to evaluate voiding a sale: such request must be made in writing detailing the alleged gross error; submission of the lot to the Auctioneer must be pre-approved by the Auctioneer; and bidder must notify Ron Brackemyre (1-800-872-6467 Ext. 1312) in writing of such request within three (3) days of the non-floor bidder's receipt of the lot. Any lot that is to be evaluated must be in our offices within 30 days after Auction. Grading or method of manufacture do not qualify for this evaluation process nor do such complaints constitute a basis to challenge the authenticity of a lot. **AFTER THAT 30-DAY PERIOD, NO LOTS MAY BE RETURNED FOR REASONS OTHER THAN AUTHENTICITY.** Lots returned must be housed intact in their original holder. No lots purchased by floor Bidders may be returned (including those Bidders acting as agents for others) except for authenticity. Late remittance for purchases may be considered just cause to revoke all return privileges.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM B: Auctions conducted solely on the Internet **THREE (3) DAY RETURN POLICY:** Certified Coin and Uncertified and Certified Currency lots paid for within seven days of the Auction closing are sold with a three (3) day return privilege unless otherwise noted in the description as "Sold As Is, No Return Lot". You may return lots under the following conditions: Within three days of receipt of the lot, you must first notify Auctioneer by contacting Client Service by phone (877-HERITAGE (437-4824)) or e-mail (Bid@HA.com), and immediately ship the lot(s) fully insured to the attention of Returns, Heritage Auctions, 2801 W. Airport Freeway, Dallas TX 75261. Lots must be housed intact in their original holder and condition. You are responsible for the insured, safe delivery of any lots. A non-negotiable return fee of 5% of the purchase price (\$10 per lot minimum) will be deducted from the refund for each returned lot or billed directly. Postage and handling fees are not refunded. After the three-day period (from receipt), no items may be returned for any reason. Late remittance for purchases revokes these Return privileges.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM C: Bidders who have inspected the lots prior to any Auction, or attended the Auction, or bid through an Agent, will not be granted any return privileges, except for reasons of authenticity.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM D: Coins sold referencing a third-party grading service are sold "as is" without any express or implied warranty, except for a guarantee by Auctioneer that they are genuine. Certain warranties may be available from the grading services and the Bidder is referred to them for further details: Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), P.O. Box 4776, Sarasota, FL 34230, <http://www.ngccoin.com/services/writtenguarantee.asp>; Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), PO Box 9458, Newport Beach, CA 92658, <http://www.pcg.com/guarantee.html>; ANACS, 6555 S. Kenton St. Ste. 303, Englewood, CO 80111; and Independent Coin Grading Co. (ICG), 7901 East Bellevue Ave., Suite 50, Englewood, CO 80111.

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COINS & CURRENCY TERM F: Notes graded by PCGS Currency between February 4, 2009 and January 30, 2019 were graded and authenticated by K3B, Inc. under license from Collectors Universe, Inc. K3B, Inc., now operating as Legacy Currency Grading, has expressed in writing that notes graded under the license during this time period will still be covered by the full written guaranty of PCGS Currency. Warranties may be available from Collectors Universe, Inc. for all PCGS Currency notes graded prior to February 4, 2009.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM G: Since we cannot examine encapsulated coins or notes, they are sold "as is" without our grading opinion, and may not be returned for any reason. Auctioneer shall not be liable for any patent or latent defect or controversy pertaining to or arising from any encapsulated collectible. In any such instance, purchaser's remedy, if any, shall be solely against the service certifying the collectible.

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COINS & CURRENCY TERM I: Although consensus grading is employed by most grading services, it should be noted as aforesaid that grading is not an exact science. In fact, it is entirely possible that if a lot is broken out of a plastic holder and resubmitted to another grading service or even to the same service, the lot could come back with a different grade assigned.

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COINS & CURRENCY TERM K: All non-certified coins and currency are guaranteed genuine, but are not guaranteed as to grade, since grading is a matter of opinion, an art and not a science, and therefore the opinion rendered by the Auctioneer or any third party grading service may not agree with the opinion of others (including trained experts), and the same expert may not grade the same item with the same grade at two different times. Auctioneer has graded the noncertified numismatic items, in the Auctioneer's opinion, to their current interpretation of the American Numismatic Association's standards as of the date the catalog was prepared. There is no guarantee or warranty implied or expressed that the grading standards utilized by the Auctioneer will meet the standards of any grading service at any time in the future.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM L: Storage of purchased coins and currency: Purchasers are advised that certain types of plastic may react with a coin's metal or transfer plasticizer to notes and may cause damage. Caution should be used to avoid storage in materials that are not inert.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM M: NOTE: Purchasers of rare coins or currency through Heritage have available the option of arbitration by the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG); if an election is not made within ten (10) days of an unresolved dispute, Auctioneer may elect either PNG or A.A.A. Arbitration.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM N: For more information regarding Canadian lots attributed to the Charlton reference guides, please contact: Charlton International, PO Box 820, Station Willowdale B, North York, Ontario M2K 2R1 Canada.

COINS & CURRENCY TERM O: Financing. Auctioneer offers various extended payment options to qualified pre-approved persons and companies. The options include Extended Payment Programs (EPP) Flexible Payment Program (FPP) and Dealer Terms. Each program has its specific terms and conditions and such terms and conditions are strictly enforced. Each program has to be executed by the purchaser. Auctioneer reserves the right to alter or deny credit and in such case these auction terms shall control.

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¹Primary office location: New York

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⁵Primary office location: Chicago

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NUMISMATICS	LOCATION	AUCTION DATES	CONSIGNMENT DEADLINES
World Paper Money	Hong Kong	December 6, 2022	Closed
World & Ancient Coins	Hong Kong	December 7-9, 2022	Closed
US Coins	Dallas	December 15-18, 2022	Closed
The Bass Collection, Part II US Coins: FUN	Orlando	January 5, 2023	Closed
World & Ancient Coins: NYINC	New York	January 9, 2023	Closed
U.S. Coins & Currency: FUN	Dallas	January 11-16, 2023	Closed
World & Ancient Coins: NYINC	Dallas	January 17-18, 2023	Closed
US Coins	Dallas	February 8-12, 2023	December 26, 2022
World Paper Money	Dallas	February 23, 2023	January 3, 2023
Ibrahim Salem Collection of World Paper Money	Dallas	March 2, 2023	January 10, 2023
FINE & DECORATIVE ARTS	LOCATION	AUCTION DATES	CONSIGNMENT DEADLINES
Fine European Art	Dallas	December 8, 2022	Closed
Fine Furniture & Decorative Art	Dallas	December 9, 2022	Closed
Pursuit of Beauty: Art Nouveau, Art Deco & Art Glass	Dallas	January 25, 2023	Closed
Design	Dallas	January 26, 2023	Closed
The Gilded Age: American Art	Dallas	January 30, 2023	Closed
Curated Home	Dallas	February 24, 2023	December 15, 2022
Fine Minerals	Dallas	March 7, 2023	January 10, 2023
POP CULTURE COLLECTIBLES	LOCATION	AUCTION DATES	CONSIGNMENT DEADLINES
The Art of All Things Disney Animation Art	Dallas	December 9-12, 2022	Closed
Comics & Comic Art	Dallas	December 10-11, 2022	Closed
Sneakers	Dallas	December 13, 2022	Closed
Hollywood & Entertainment	Dallas	December 17, 2022	Closed
Comics & Comic Art	Dallas	January 12-13, 2023	Closed
Video Games	Dallas	January 19-21, 2023	Closed
Winter Sports Card Catalog	Dallas	January 26-27, 2023	December 5, 2022
Gregory & Veronique Peck Hollywood & Entertainment	Dallas	February 23, 2023	December 23, 2022
Sports Winter Platinum Night	Dallas	February 25-26, 2023	January 4, 2023
HISTORICAL COLLECTIBLES	LOCATION	AUCTION DATES	CONSIGNMENT DEADLINES
Arms & Armor, Civil War & Militaria	Dallas	December 12, 2022	Closed
Space Exploration	Dallas	December 15-16, 2022	Closed
Manuscripts	Dallas	February 8, 2023	December 9, 2022
Americana & Political	Dallas	February 11-12, 2023	December 12, 2022
Books	Dallas	March 1-2, 2023	December 30, 2022
LUXURY LIFESTYLE	LOCATION	AUCTION DATES	CONSIGNMENT DEADLINES
Holiday Luxury Accessories	Dallas	December 8, 2022	Closed
Holiday Fine Jewelry	Dallas	December 12, 2022	Closed
Luxury Real Estate: Isleworth Estate	Windermere	December 13, 2022	Closed
Fine & Rare Wine	Beverly Hills	December 16, 2022	Closed
Luxury Real Estate: Four Brooks Farm	Tyringham	January 31, 2023	Closed

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SHOWCASE & SELECT AUCTIONS

Modern World Coins | 7 PM Last Sunday
 U.S. Coins & World Paper Money | 7 PM Tuesdays
 U.S. Coins | 7 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays
 Ancient Coins | 7 PM Wednesdays
 World Coins | 7 PM Thursdays
 Jewelry | 2 PM Tuesdays

Wine | 8 PM Second Thursday
 Photographs | 1 PM Second Wednesday
 Minerals | 7 PM Second Wednesday
 Prints & Multiples | 1 PM Third Wednesday
 Nature & Science | 8 PM Thursdays
 Fine & Decorative Arts | 1 PM Second Thursday

Vintage Posters | 10 PM Sundays
 Comics | 6 PM Sundays & Mondays
 Sports | 10 PM Sundays & Third Thursdays
 Video Games | 8 PM Tuesdays
 Comic & Animation Art | 6 PM Wednesdays
 Trading Card Games | 8 PM Wednesdays

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